

# Failure to prevent fractures costing the nation billions each year: Osteoporosis Australia report

## Launch of national SOS Fracture Alliance to 'make the first break the last'

The brittle bones of Australians aged 50+ is expected to cost \$3.1 billion in 2017, while the total cost over 10 years will climb to \$21.9 billion by 2022. This is according to the first reports to analyse the cost and burden of poor bone health for all States and Territory nation-wide, set for release by Osteoporosis Australia next **Tuesday, June 27, 2017**.

Release of the *Osteoporosis Burden of Disease* reports will coincide with the launch of the independent SOS Fracture Alliance – Australia's first national alliance of 30 medical, allied health, patient and consumer organisations focusing on the prevention of osteoporotic fractures.

"A broken bone is usually a sign that we need to take action to prevent more bone loss, as each fracture significantly raises the risk of a further fracture," said Osteoporosis Australia Medical Director, Professor Peter Ebeling AO.

"Four-out-of-five Australians treated for an osteoporotic fracture are not tested for osteoporosis, and therefore, are not offered treatment for osteoporosis. There is a significant gap in osteoporosis care, and our hospitals are becoming revolving doors for fracture patients being sent home, and returning with new fractures, rather than being properly assessed and treated for osteoporosis."

The SOS Fracture Alliance is seeking to increase national recognition of first fractures in people with undiagnosed osteoporosis, to make their first break their last.

**To learn more about the respective State and Territory osteoporosis reports and the new SOS Fracture Alliance, tee up an interview with an expert or patient below:**

<b>EXPERTS</b>	
<b>Prof Markus Seibel</b>	Founder & Chair, SOS Fracture Alliance National Steering Committee & Professor of Endocrinology, University of Sydney, <b>SYDNEY</b>
<b>Mr Greg Lyubomirsky</b>	CEO, Osteoporosis Australia, <b>SYDNEY</b>
<b>Prof Jacqui Close</b>	SOS Fracture Alliance Steering Committee member & Consultant Orthogeriatrician, Prince of Wales Hospital & Clinical Director of the Falls, Balance & Injury Research Centre, Neuroscience Australia, <b>SYDNEY</b>
<b>Prof Peter Ebeling AO</b>	Medical Director, Osteoporosis Australia & Head, Department of Medicine, School of Clinical Sciences at Monash Health, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Monash University, <b>MELBOURNE</b>
<b>Prof Kerrie Sanders</b>	Report co-author & Head, Musculoskeletal Science & Health Economics team, Institute for Health & Ageing, <b>MELBOURNE</b>
<b>A/Prof Mark Kotowicz</b>	SOS Fracture Alliance National Steering Committee member & A/Prof in Medicine, Barwon Health, <b>GEELONG</b>
<b>Dr Syndia Lazarus</b>	Endocrinologist, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, <b>BRISBANE</b>
<b>Dr Lisa Hayes</b>	Consultant endocrinologist, Princess Alexandra Hospital, <b>BRISBANE</b>
<b>Prof Tania Winzenberg</b>	SOS Alliance member & Professor of Chronic Disease Management, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, <b>HOBART</b>
<b>Dr Mellick Chegade</b>	Orthopaedic surgeon & immediate past President, Australasian Orthopaedics Trauma Society, <b>ADELAIDE</b>
<b>Prof Bruce Armstrong</b>	SOS Fracture Alliance National Steering Committee member, Epidemiologist, public health physician & Emeritus Professor, Sydney School of Public Health, <b>PERTH</b>
<b>Prof Charles Inderjeeth</b>	Clinical Epidemiologist & Consultant Physician in Rheumatology & Geriatric Medicine, <b>PERTH</b>
<b>Dr Satbir Aulakh</b>	GP & Director at Ageless Health Clinics, <b>DARWIN</b>
<b>EVERYDAY AUSTRALIANS</b>	
<b>Kate, 65</b>	Retired school teacher & mother who broke her left femur in two during an aerobics class, <b>SYDNEY</b>
<b>Terry, 80</b>	Former professional rugby player who has sustained multiple fractures post- his career, <b>SYDNEY</b>
<b>Annarosa, 54</b>	Published author, wife & keen walker living with osteoporosis, <b>SYDNEY</b>
<b>Carole, 63</b>	Retired business consultant who sustained multiple bone fractures, <b>CENTRAL COAST, NSW</b>
<b>David Parkin OAM, 74</b>	Retired AFL player, coach & fitness fanatic who fractured his vertebra while descending a flight of stairs, <b>MELBOURNE</b>
<b>Helen, 72</b>	Retired mother to two living with severe osteoporosis who sustained eight fractures in one year, <b>MELBOURNE</b>
<b>Jane, 49</b>	Nurse & mother to three who was diagnosed with osteoporosis aged 38, <b>MELBOURNE</b>
<b>Karen, 59</b>	Mother who has endured multiple unnecessary bone breaks & loss of height over the past nine years, <b>MT DORAN, VIC</b>
<b>Christine, 62</b>	Mother to four diagnosed with osteopenia (brittle bones) prior to fracture, <b>BRISBANE</b>
<b>Anne, 70</b>	Former nurse & avid traveller who has experienced multiple fractures due to osteopenia, <b>BRISBANE</b>
<b>Margaret, 74</b>	Teaching associate, former carer & mother-to-one at risk of re-fracture, <b>BRISBANE</b>
<b>Kimberley, 36</b>	Busy mother of two living with pregnancy-related osteoporosis, <b>BRISBANE</b>
<b>Fiona, 37</b>	Active wife & mother to five boys who fractured four vertebrae while hiking in New Zealand, <b>ADELAIDE</b>
<b>Bruce, 73</b>	Public health physician & medical researcher who fractured his spine, <b>PERTH</b>
<b>Yvonne, 70</b>	Retired nurse & small business owner who has sustained multiple hip fractures from osteoporosis, <b>PERTH</b>
<b>Shirley, 79</b>	Retired retail buyer, mother & former netballer & basketballer recovering from a severe hip fracture, <b>PERTH</b>

**MEDIA CONTACTS:** Kirsten Bruce, John Wanna from VIVA! Communications 0401 717 566 / 0430 302 822  
**DIGITAL MEDIA KIT:** Available for download TUES, JUNE 27, 2017 at [www.fracturepreventionmediakit.org](http://www.fracturepreventionmediakit.org)  
**To learn more, visit:** [osteoporosis.org.au/burdenofdisease](http://osteoporosis.org.au/burdenofdisease)