

# JOINT ACTION PLAN

Priority areas for national effort and resources in 2008-09





# JOINT ACTION PLAN

Priority areas for national effort and resources in 2008-09

*The following actions have been identified and agreed upon by Arthritis Australia and its affiliated State/Territory Arthritis Offices for the purpose of:*

- *achieving positive outcomes for Australians living with musculoskeletal diseases including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis;*
- *assisting the Federal Government in delivering the National Service Improvement Framework and National Action Plan for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Diseases; and*
- *ensuring that arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions remains a National Health Priority.*

*Our aim is to ensure that all Australians living with arthritis have information about, and access to, the best possible services and support. We want health professionals to understand and value the unique role of Arthritis Australia and recommend our services to their patients. We want people to be aware that there are always positive steps they can take in living with arthritis – that something can be done. And we want Australians living with arthritis to get the best possible deal from government policies.*

*Throughout this document the name Arthritis Australia refers to the joint effort of the National Office and all State/Territory Offices.*

*Tasks for implementing these proposals have been allocated to combined National Office and State/Territory Office working groups.*

## OBJECTIVE 1

### Reducing the burden of disease

Arthritis Australia will:

- Continue to coordinate, integrate and facilitate the promotion and delivery of self-management and healthy lifestyles programs for people with arthritis and related musculoskeletal conditions.
- Develop new initiatives and strategies for:
  - Increasing knowledge, awareness and prevention
  - Workplace education and awareness
  - Healthy lifestyles/obesity
  - Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and adolescents/young adults
  - Early intervention for rheumatoid arthritis
  - GP and health professional awareness and education.



# JOINT ACTION PLAN

Priority areas for national effort and resources in 2008-09

- Maintain a register of the Arthritis Australia Research Program, obtain final reports from researchers and publish summaries of the research outcomes.
- Continue to work with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in identifying key research areas and assisting with the delivery of such information.
- Review current Telephone Information Line survey practices and develop a national and uniform method of capturing relevant data about consumers.

## OBJECTIVE 2

Advancing and disseminating knowledge and understanding of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)

Arthritis Australia will:

- Continue to coordinate, develop, produce and disseminate a national set of consumer information materials.
- Continue to develop strategic alliances with health professional organisations with the aim of expanding consumer information and guidelines.
- Expand knowledge and awareness activities with the aim of ensuring that everyone living with arthritis has information about, and access to, the best possible services and support.

## OBJECTIVE 3

Lower socio-economic areas and other special groups

Arthritis Australia will:

- Review gaps, needs and barriers of a sample of lower socio-economic areas in order to develop the most appropriate awareness and education strategies.
- Develop a national strategy for increasing awareness and education about arthritis to culturally diverse and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Take the disadvantaged consumer voice to Federal Government.



# JOINT ACTION PLAN

Priority areas for national effort and resources in 2008-09

## OBJECTIVE 4

### Driving national improvements in systems and services

Arthritis Australia will:

- Develop strategic alliances for all national projects.
- Strengthen relationships between State/Territory Offices and state government bodies.
- Advocate for more money to be put into research on arthritis and related musculoskeletal conditions.
- Lobby for (1) a review of the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) criteria for biological medications to ensure they reflect the scientific evidence and allow reasonable access for those patients expected to benefit; (2) a more realistic and equitable Medicare Chronic Disease Management (MCDM) item for better access to allied health services; and (3) reduced joint replacement waiting lists.

## OBJECTIVE 5

### Measuring and managing performance and outcomes

Arthritis Australia will:

- Ensure all projects have timelines and key performance indicators (KPIs) that are monitored regularly throughout the work period.
- Make use of current research such as The Voice of Arthritis social impact study and Access Economics' Painful Realities: The Economic Impact of Arthritis in Australia report to inform planning and advocacy matters.
- Conduct an audit of other economic and social research available in the marketplace and review ongoing needs for updates.

## OBJECTIVE 6

### Raising profile of Arthritis Australia

Arthritis Australia will:

- Review and develop a style guide for collateral (e.g. letterhead, business cards, with comps slips) and website consistency.
- Promote the activities and achievements of Arthritis Australia through the media.



# JOINT ACTION PLAN

Priority areas for national effort and resources in 2008-09

## OBJECTIVE 7

### Income generation

Arthritis Australia will:

- Research and develop strategic partnerships with a focus on sustainable, corporate funding for national projects.
- Implement a strategy for obtaining additional funds for research into arthritis and related musculoskeletal conditions.
- Build relationships with Federal Government departments, advisors and politicians.

## OBJECTIVE 8

### Working together

Arthritis Australia will:

- Work collaboratively on all national projects.
- Appoint a project leader from either the National Office or one of the State/Territory Offices for each working group.
- Identify and include strategic alliances, relevant to the desired outcomes, for all national projects.
- Work together and share ideas for quality improvement of service delivery.
- Share with each other experiences and successes in communicating with state government bodies and include government relations as a standard agenda item for monthly CEOs teleconferences.
- Develop monitoring systems for keeping abreast of relevant arthritis issues.