

Australia launches national strategic action plan for pain management

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The Australian government has launched its National Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management, providing Australians living with chronic pain access to the care and support they need.

Providing a whole-of-care approach, the plan recommends eight goals and will focus on reducing the burden of disease and improving the quality of life and care for patients.

Developed by Painaustralia, with \$170,000 from the Australian government, the Plan is a national approach towards support chronic pain and has been endorsed by health ministers from every state and territory.

The government is providing \$2.5 million towards the early implementation of the plan, including:

- \$1 million to the University of Sydney – Pain Management Research Institute to train health professionals how to offer pain management care more effectively.
- \$500,000 to the Australian New Zealand College of Anaesthetists to improve the availability of, and access to, consistent and up-to-date information, training and education programs for health professionals on the appropriate management and care for people living with chronic pain.
- \$1 million to Painaustralia to support consumer education and awareness for people affected by pain.

The government has also allocated \$4.3 million to expand pain management services for regional, rural and remote Australians through the Rural Health Outreach