



Organisations associated with the Bone and Joint Decade in Australia are:

Department of Health and Ageing
Arthritis Australia
Osteoporosis Australia
Australia and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society
Australian Orthopaedic Association
Australian Rheumatology Association
Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand
Sports Medicine Australia
Australia and New Zealand Society of Biomechanics
Australian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
Australian Musculoskeletal Imaging Group

Major Sponsors include:

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Smith & Nephew Surgical
AstraZeneca
Zimmer

The Bone and Joint Decade 2000-2010



Bone and joint health - the business of every Australian

www.boneandjointdecade.org.au

For further information,

visit our website at:

www.boneandjointdecade.org.au

or email:

bjdecade@uq.edu.au

or phone:

BJD Australia
07 3346 4857

Arthritis Australia
1800 011 041

Osteoporosis Australia
1800 242 141



What is the Bone and Joint Decade?

The Bone and Joint Decade (BJD) is a worldwide initiative to improve the health-related quality of life for people with musculoskeletal disorders.

The initiative has four main aims.

1. To raise public awareness of the growing burden of musculoskeletal disorders on society,
2. To promote education and empower patients to participate in their own bone and joint health care.
3. To promote cost-effective prevention, diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders.
4. To advance understanding of musculoskeletal disorders through further medical and public health research.

Professional organisations, patient advocacy groups, governments, industry and researchers are working together to achieve these aims.

Why have a decade on bones and joints? And why now – 2000 to 2010?

There is an epidemic of musculoskeletal disease occurring worldwide as the population ages.

Disorders such as osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, low back pain, joint trauma and other joint diseases already affect hundreds of millions of people around the world.

A predicted doubling of people older than 50 by the year 2020 means many more will be suffering by this date unless bone and joint disease is made an international health priority.



In Australia, bone and joint conditions are the second most common cause of presentations to doctors in general practice and the third most expensive cause of health system expenditure.

The Bone and Joint Decade aims to focus attention on these important diseases, demonstrating to patients and healthcare providers that a relatively modest investment can produce significant benefits.

The Bone and Joint Decade will bring together these important strands of research, education and service to improve the quality of life of millions of Australians who suffer daily from a bone and joint condition.