

National Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management - Assessment of Priorities Methodology

Background

Painaustralia has been funded by the Australian Government to develop a National Strategic Action Plan for Pain Management (the Action Plan) which will identify specific actions or policies to improve the quality of life for people living with pain.

The Action Plan will provide a roadmap towards kickstarting the implementation of the goals of the 2010 National Pain Strategy (the Strategy) in the next three years. It is critical the Action Plan aligns with the Strategy which is endorsed by experts as providing a blueprint for best practice pain management, recommending an interdisciplinary approach.

As it has been eight years since the Strategy was developed, there are a small number of emerging goals that the consultation process revealed are critical to improving the quality of life for people with pain and these have also been considered in determining the action items.

Development process

In developing the Action Plan, Painaustralia is consulting with a range of stakeholders through various mediums including:

- A comprehensive and public online survey
- Consultation with state and territory governments and Primary Health Networks
- A targeted consumer-specific roundtable
- A high level national key stakeholder workshop
- Targeted consultations with key pain-specific and other national health organisations

Critically, this consultation is focused on ensuring it considers the views of those most affected by the policy options in the Action Plan (consumers) and actively engaging the enablers of the policy (health practitioners and decision-makers in government).

Assessment Criteria

Throughout the consultation process, Painaustralia has received a wide range of ideas for actions and priorities.

We recognise that the one in five Australians living with chronic pain represents a diverse group of health consumers, and that a diverse range of health disciplines are involved in pain treatment, management and support. Therefore, a range of different priorities, views and opinions have been provided as part of the consultation process.

In determining the priorities for inclusion in the Action Plan, Painaustralia will apply assessment criteria that take into consideration a range of factors. All action and policies that are included in the Action Plan will have met all the following assessment measures.

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ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Compliance with the National Pain Strategy

1a. Does the action or policy directly support the realisation of one of the six goals of the National Pain Strategy?

The key goals are:

- o People in pain as a national health priority
- o Knowledgeable, empowered and supported consumers
- o Skilled professionals and best-practice evidence-based care
- o Access to interdisciplinary care at all levels
- o Quality improvement and evaluation
- o Research

(or)

1b. If the action does not directly support the realisation of one of the six goals of the National Pain Strategy, does it meet one of the emerging goals that has been identified in the consultation process? These include:

- o Prevention and early intervention
- o Reducing impact of pain on the workforce and ability to participate in community

2. Does the action or policy meet the principles of best practice pain management as outlined in the National Pain Strategy?

3. If the action or policy underpinned by a strong evidence base?

Timing and Budget

4. Is the action or policy achievable in the next three years?

5a. Can the action or policy be reasonably funded in the next 3 years?

5b. If it cannot be funded, it is a measure that underpins reform of the health system?

Unmet need

6. Does the action or policy meet an unmet need?

Support

7. Does the action or policy have the support of the key enablers (health practitioners or policy makers) to ensure its success?