

# AOA statement: Response to Duckett report

Australian Orthopaedic Association

9 December 2019

As the peak professional organisation for orthopaedic surgery in Australia, representing 98 per cent of Australia's orthopaedic surgeons, the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) is concerned about two issues raised in the Duckett report.

The first issue of concern regards the price deregulation measures and recommendations made by the Duckett report. Prostheses price deregulation has previously been tried in Australia and was associated with a significant increase in prostheses cost. The current price regulatory system has not only stabilised prices for many years but has also enabled the Government to negotiate a significant cost reduction, including further reductions due to come in effect as early as February 2020.

Secondly, it is important to point out that Professor Duckett's comment that, "three quarters of prostheses chosen by orthopaedic surgeons are not among the top 10 in terms of quality as measured by revision rates" is a serious misrepresentation of the data provided in the 2017 AOA National Joint Replacement Registry (AOANJRR) report.

The analysis he referred to is not an analysis of comparative performance of different prosthesis. It was an arbitrary selection of 10 well performed prostheses based on midterm follow up to highlight that prosthesis selection was a factor impacting on surgeon and hospital outcomes. In the report the AOANJRR explicitly stated that "there are many prostheses with similarly low rates of revision that have not been included in this analysis".

AOA is pleased however that the Duckett report acknowledged the success of its registry as the recommended model for other prostheses registries in Australia.

Since AOA commenced the AOANJRR in Australia in 1999 there has been a major reduction in revision surgeries. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality of Health Care in an independent report published in 2016 estimated that the information provided by the Registry had reduced cost by over \$600M for hip and knee replacements in the ten-year period up to 2014. The number of revision procedures has continued to decline since that time. AOA has been very successful at improving health standards and reducing costs to the Australian community and is committed to continuing to ensure that Australians receive the highest possible quality of orthopaedic care.

## Media Enquiries

Ben McAlary

[ben@macalarymedia.com](mailto:ben@macalarymedia.com)

0417 351 724

## About the Australian Orthopaedic Association

The Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA) is the peak professional body for orthopaedic surgeons in Australia. AOA provides high quality specialist education, training and continuing professional development. AOA is committed to ensuring the highest possible standard of orthopaedic care and is the leading authority in the provision of orthopaedic information to the community. AOA actively supports scientific research and orthopaedic humanitarian initiatives in Australia and overseas.