



9th May 2022 UPDATE:

Osteoarthritis Summit to be held in Wellington, rescheduled to November 2022

Kia ora koutou,

When it's May 2022 already, we know the year is flying by and many of you may have been asking, "where is this year going?". It is therefore timely to provide an update on our mahi following the July 2021 Osteoarthritis (OA) Basecamp we hosted at the University of Auckland.

Osteoarthritis Aotearoa New Zealand (OAAoNZ) has been meeting regularly to plan our larger OA "Summit", or hui, to be held in Wellington in the latter half of November this year. We had originally planned to host this in June or July 2022, but due to the ongoing challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, felt it was prudent to delay until later in the year. In addition to this event helping to develop a National OA Strategy, a number of international and local speakers have been approached and are keen to contribute and build on the momentum we created last year. Key policymakers in the health sector will also be invited to attend, as will consumers who are affected in their everyday lives by musculoskeletal-related conditions. We are close to confirming the date and venue for the Summit and will notify you of these details as soon as they can be shared so you are able to join us in November.

Members of the OAAoNZ Committee are also fine-tuning a research paper for publication which relates to the co-design workshops you may have attended at our OA Basecamp. This paper explores the current and future OA health service delivery needs in this country and will also help to inform the development of the National OA Strategy.

Additionally, our previous media release in April drew attention to the Mobility Action Programme (MAP) evaluation report which was released by the Ministry of Health in late 2021. We suggested that the report provides excellent New Zealand examples of cost effective, evidence-based interventions that improve health outcomes and quality of life for people whose lives are significantly impacted by OA, particularly Māori and Pasifika patients. While it is disappointing there has been little interest and realisation from both the media and the MoH that this evaluation should be acted upon, this presents an opportunity for you who comprise our wider community of interest to highlight the report's significance.

Lastly, our Committee is developing several dedicated webpages which will be hosted on Arthritis New Zealand's website. These webpages will provide you, our OA community and professional network, with a centralised site you can visit to learn more about our work in the OA space, who we are and key resources such as publications and papers that have helped to shape our thinking and approach. Again, we will inform you when our webpages are ready.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Daniel O'Brien or visit our Twitter account: https://twitter.com/oa_aonz.

For further information on osteoarthritis and the OA Summit, please contact:

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