Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) members have been helping Australians Move Well and Stay Well for over 100 years.

In Australia, there are over 15,000 registered physiotherapists and more than 12,000 members of the APA. Physiotherapists must be registered with the Physiotherapists Registration Board to practice. A doctor’s referral is not necessary to see a physiotherapist, however physiotherapists often work in a team with doctors and other health professionals.

You may be interested in the following physiotherapy facts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average number of treatments per patient who had an initial consultation in 2008.*</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated number of physiotherapy private practices in Australia in 2007-2008.**</td>
<td>4,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people employed in physiotherapy private practices across Australia in 2007-2008.**</td>
<td>12,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated number of initial private practice physiotherapy consultations per year.†</td>
<td>2,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of private insurance claims for physiotherapy services in 2008.‡</td>
<td>7,641,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated number of occasions of service in physiotherapy private practices across Australia in 2008. §</td>
<td>15,594,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* proposed by private health insurers
** 2008 IBISWorld Industry Report on physiotherapy
† APA Benchmarking Survey, 2008
‡ Private Health Insurance Administration Council (PHIAC)
§ Source: Physiotherapy Business Australia, Benchmarking Survey, 2007 (nb: approximate figures)

- The majority of jurisdictions require GP referrals to physiotherapists for Workcover and Motor Vehicle Accident Scheme compensable patients.

**General Practice Referrals to Physiotherapists**

- Physiotherapist referrals are the most common referral from GPs.
- 9.1% of all referrals from GPs are to physiotherapists [followed by referral to surgeons (6.9%), ophthalmologists (6.1%) and orthopaedic surgeons (6.0%)].
- There is growing evidence to demonstrate that, in the majority of cases, intervention by a musculoskeletal physiotherapist after referral to an orthopedic surgeon can result in the successful management of the referred condition.^^

Oldfellow et al, MJA 2007; 186

Physiotherapist services are rebatable under private healthcare funds.

- For complex or chronic conditions, physiotherapists may provide services under the Medicare Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) program.
- All visits to physiotherapists by Medicare Enhanced Primary Care (EPC) & Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) patients must be through GP referral.

Source: Physiotherapy Business Australia, Benchmarking Survey, 2007 (nb: approximate figures)
APA membership
The Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) is the peak body representing the interests of Australian physiotherapists and their patients. Physiotherapists who are members of the APA receive a range of benefits and support for their commitment to their profession.

Continuing Professional Education
The APA is committed to the concept of continuing professional education and requires all members to document evidence of their completion of 100 hours of professional development in any three-year period. All courses that are conducted under the auspices of the APA are required to be accredited under the APA system of course accreditation and meet quality standards.

Quality and Practice
The APA Code of Conduct sets a standard of professional and ethical behaviour over and above the requirements of registration. APA members make a commitment to abide by the Code of Conduct and other APA policies that are supportive of high standards of practice and behaviour. The APA Professional Standards Panel assists members to understand and comply with the Association’s Code of Conduct, ethical principles and other policies and guidelines.

Our Mission
We advocate for equitable access to quality physiotherapy and optimal healthcare for all Australians. We assist our members to provide quality physiotherapy through professional excellence and career success.

Our Vision
All Australians to have access to quality physiotherapy, when and where required, to optimise health and wellbeing.

Specialisation, National Groups and Events
Members can also specialise in their area of interest through the APA specialisation framework, and receive collegial support from physiotherapists working in a similar area through participation in one of 14 National Groups. APA branches and national groups run a full program of events, including workshops, seminars, formal courses, and major conferences.

For further information, including media, government, membership and general enquiries, contact the APA team:

National Office
Level 1, 1175 Toorak Road, Camberwell, VIC, 3124
PO Box 437, Hawthorn BC, VIC, 3122
P (03) 9092 0888  F (03) 9092 0899
E national.office@physiotherapy.asn.au
www.physiotherapy.asn.au