

THE SPINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

An Affiliate of the Australian Orthopaedic Association

COMMITTEE ON SCREENING PROCEDURES

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Dear Principal

Concerning the National Scoliosis Detection Program (NSDP)

The purpose of this letter is to remind school Principals it is recommended that all schools with girls in Years 5 and 7 participate in Scoliosis Screening.

This can be simply done by downloading the Scoliosis Detection Fact Sheet and distributing it to your pupils. The Fact Sheet can be accessed directly via a link on the Scoliosis Australia home page at www.scoliosis-australia.org.

We thank you if you have taken part in the exercise in the past and, if not, we ask that your school participate in this important program.

Scoliosis (spinal curvature) is an important health problem for adolescent girls. Three girls per thousand require active treatment (spinal brace or surgery). In the early stages the condition is most often asymptomatic. Screening in the age range 10-12 years is a sound preventative health measure. When school screening for scoliosis was abandoned, we introduced the NSDP as a practical alternative. Our policy on the matter is fully explained on the website.

The website contains comprehensive credible information about scoliosis, and a useful resource regarding the different aspects of scoliosis. It offers a strong support base for adolescent patients with scoliosis and their parents.

Enquiries concerning the NSDP in each state and territory are welcome.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Angus Gray

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