Enhancing, promoting and advancing the osteopathic profession in Australia
The Clinical Practice Groups (CPGs)

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The objectives of the presentation are to:

- Explain what a Clinical Practice Group is (CPG) and why the concept is unique in the Australian context.

- Outline what Osteopathy Australia’s CPGs will do to promote, advance and uphold clinical competence and reduce risk.

- Describe project phases in moving toward implementation.

- Outline challenges faced in the CPG project to date.
What is a Clinical Practice Group (CPG)?

- The CPGs will be structures of Osteopathy Australia that provide affiliation, belonging and connection between osteopaths with developed clinical competence in focus areas of practice, including:
  - Exercise based rehabilitation
  - Occupational health
  - Pain Management
  - Paediatrics
  - Sports practice.
The CPGs represent an innovative first in Australia, complementing existing governance arrangements for osteopaths in the country and filling a crucial gap in infrastructure required for the overtime sustainability of the profession.
Outcome 1: incentivise osteopaths to grow their clinical skillset through tiered rewards and recognition
Outcome 2: the CPGs will create robust referral pathways between advanced practitioners and all other osteopaths for timely and responsive care, assessment and clinical management
Outcome 3: the CPGs will enable Osteopathy Australia to seek additional practice privileges through targeted lobbying in distinct program areas (whether government funded programs, private health insurance service types for rebate)
Outcome 4: The CPGs will enable increased production of evidence for osteopathy that can be disseminated and promulgated.
Outcome 5: the CPGs will advise on knowledge and reasoning skills from a focus area needed within the every day practice of all osteopaths to minimise risk, increase safety and quality.
The CPG project in a snap shot

- The CPG project involves slow culture change and careful implementation.
- The formulation and launch of advanced practice credentialing and recognition arrangements will take between 4-6 years at minimum.
- Osteopathy Australia is over 2 years into the process and started in 2015.
Key challenges of the project

You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks.

— Winston Churchill —
Challenges in a nutshell

- Resourcing is a critical component. Be prepared to invest significant organisational resources over the long term for formalisation.

- The more significant risks stem from the osteopathic profession itself:
  - Confusion between regulation/minimum standards and quality/excellence
  - Philosophical barriers
  - Turf protection/anxiety
  - Over-anticipation/lack of awareness of credentialing system development
  - Equity concerns.