



# Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions

The NHMRC awarded over \$185 million for arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions research from 2000 to 2007

Arthritis is a term used to describe a disorder of one or more joints. Arthritis disorders are part of a broader group of disorders of the muscles and bones called musculoskeletal disorders. Some of the most commonly occurring musculoskeletal conditions are osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and osteoporosis.

Arthritis is one of the major national health issues identified by the Australian, State and Territory Governments.<sup>1</sup> The NHMRC has invested over \$185 million for arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions research from 2000 to 2007.

Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions	
2000	\$9.9m
2001	\$14.4m
2002	\$17.5m
2003	\$19.6m
2004	\$23.0m
2005	\$29.5m
2006	\$33.1m
2007	\$37.9m

The major musculoskeletal research areas and funding investment for 2000-2007 are listed below.

Bone growth issues	
2000	\$2.2m
2001	\$2.8m
2002	\$3.4m
2003	\$3.7m
2004	\$4.2m
2005	\$4.2m
2006	\$4.4m
2007	\$4.9m

Chronic back pain	
2000	\$292,415
2001	\$280,088
2002	\$227,434
2003	\$540,142
2004	\$447,761
2005	\$990,694
2006	\$1.5m
2007	\$1.9m

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Ageing, [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)





Falls (injury)	
2000	\$747,832
2001	\$823,555
2002	\$1.8m
2003	\$1.7m
2004	\$1.9m
2005	\$2.3m
2006	\$3.6m
2007	\$2.8m

Fractures	
2000	\$625,177
2001	\$663,026
2002	\$1.7m
2003	\$2.5m
2004	\$3.2m
2005	\$3.6m
2006	\$3.8m
2007	\$3.7m

Joint and bone tissue replacement	
2000	\$572,280
2001	\$833,050
2002	\$713,458
2003	\$745,453
2004	\$696,204
2005	\$590,668
2006	\$781,197
2007	\$1.0m

Osteoarthritis	
2000	\$826,733
2001	\$1.3m
2002	\$1.5m
2003	\$2.2m
2004	\$2.4m
2005	\$4.8m
2006	\$6.0m
2007	\$5.9m

Osteoporosis	
2000	\$1.4m
2001	\$2.1m
2002	\$3.0m
2003	\$4.2m
2004	\$5.4m
2005	\$5.4m
2006	\$5.1m
2007	\$5.6m

Rheumatoid arthritis	
2000	\$2.5m
2001	\$5.7m
2002	\$6.5m
2003	\$6.9m
2004	\$7.7m
2005	\$8.3m
2006	\$8.6m
2007	\$10.3m

Spinal and lumbar issues	
2000	\$259,905
2001	\$102,081
2002	\$114,294
2003	\$496,243
2004	\$562,936
2005	\$725,370
2006	\$761,856
2007	\$1.2m

Figures on all tables are correct as at March 2007. They may differ from previously published figures.

NHMRC is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research; for developing health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and government; and for providing advice on ethical behaviour in health care and in the conduct of health and medical research.

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