



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 16/04/2019

**Issue:**

Open Letter from MSK on behalf of all Australians living with back problems to Tiger Woods on winning the US Masters golf tournament

### **Congratulations Tiger!**

16 April, 2019 Melbourne –

Dear Tiger,

Musculoskeletal Australia would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your incredible success at the Augusta Masters.

Your comeback, after many years of physical pain and frustration, has been an inspiration to watch – for us, and the millions of people around the world who also live with chronic, debilitating pain.

In Australia alone, 1 in every 6 people have back problems. Like you, many of these people have persistent pain that impacts all aspects of their lives. And as you're so intimately aware, persistent back pain affects your strength and fitness, the ability to complete your usual activities at home or work, mental health, social connections, intimacy, sleep, concentration and relationships.

Unfortunately, this issue, which affects 3.9 million Australians, is not recognised as the priority it should be. Attention and resources from government has not been allocated to back problems. That's why seeing someone like you, an incredible athlete in the public eye, can help draw attention to the issue of back pain.

Your never give up attitude and perseverance, in the face of pain, surgery and uncertainty, is admirable.

People often assume that surgery is the magic bullet that will fix all ills. But as you know, it's a combination of medical management, rehabilitation, exercise, and lifestyle changes that have the most impact on managing persistent back pain. So seeing you come out on top after so much hard work and determination is encouraging to so many of us living with persistent pain.

We wish you all the very best in your career, and we look forward to seeing you come to Royal Melbourne for the Presidents Cup in December.

Congratulations once again!

Musculoskeletal Australia (On behalf of all Australians living with chronic back conditions)

#### **About Musculoskeletal Australia**

Musculoskeletal Australia (MSK) is a consumer organisation working with and advocating on behalf of people with arthritis, osteoporosis, back pain, gout and more than 150 other musculoskeletal conditions. MSK conditions affect every part of your life, where simple tasks such as walking to the letterbox, picking up a glass, working, sleeping, looking after your family can become extremely difficult. It affects your finances with the costs of medication and treatment as well as loss of income for those that are unable to work. As such anxiety and depression are common among people living with these conditions.

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