Summary – Key Findings

Burden of Osteoporosis, Osteopenia and Associated Fractures in the Northern Territory

Poor Bone Health: 2012-2022

- By 2022, it is estimated there will be 44,510 older people in the Northern Territory with low bone mass, an increase of 42% from 2012.
- 38,107 adults in the Northern Territory aged 50 years and older (63%) have osteoporosis or osteopenia (poor bone health) in 2017.
- 31,400 adults in the Northern Territory aged 50 years and older (63%), had osteoporosis or osteopenia (poor bone health) in 2012.
- Among people in the Northern Territory aged 50 years and older, 11% had osteoporosis and 52% have osteopenia.
- Among people in the Northern Territory aged 70 years and older, 43% of women and 13% of men had osteoporosis (1,500 women and 500 men).

Fracture Impact: 2012-2022

- The total number of fractures over the ten year period 2013 to 2022 is projected to be 10,036.
- In 2022 it is expected there will be a 55% increase in the annual number of fractures (over 10 years) resulting in 1,200 fractures per annum.
- In 2022 there will be 3.3 fractures every day among older adults in the Northern Territory. Approximately one in seven of these fractures will be a hip fracture.
- In 2017 there will be 2.7 fractures every day among older adults in the Northern Territory.

Cost Impact: 2012-2022

- The total direct costs of fractures over the ten years 2013 to 2022 will be $110 million (2012$). These costs include ambulance services, hospitalisations and emergency and outpatient departments, rehabilitation, limited aged care and community services.
- In 2017 the total direct costs of osteoporosis and osteopenia in Northern Territory adults aged 50 years and over will be $16.7 million of which $10.7 million (64%) relates to the treatment of fractures.
- In 2012 the total direct costs of osteoporosis and osteopenia in Northern Territory adults aged 50 years and over, were $14.4 million of which $8.3 million (64%) relates to the treatment of fractures.
People in the Northern Territory over 50 estimated to have osteoporosis or osteopenia in 2022

- 65% of 44,500 people

Number of fractures due to osteoporosis and osteopenia

- 2012: 800
- 2022: 1,200


- Total cost over 10 years: $110 million