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**MEDIA RELEASE  
20 December 2023**

## **SPINAL CORD STIMULATOR IMPLANTS VITAL TO CHRONIC PAIN**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) today welcomed the release of Pain Australia's report on consumer experience with spinal cord stimulator (SCS) implants.

The report brings to life, for the first time, the positive impact these cutting-edge medical devices have on the quality of life for Australians living with chronic pain.

Chronic pain affects more than 3.5 million Australians, costing the economy approximately \$75 billion each year in lost productivity and health costs. The report also highlights the real challenge of ballooning costs – more than \$200 billion by 2050 – if the number of Australians living with chronic pain continues to rise to more than 5 million.

MTAA CEO, Ian Burgess, said today's report shows SCS therapy provides significant clinical, social, and economic value, particularly for patients who have exhausted all other treatment options for relieving chronic pain.

"Over decades these devices have demonstrated the ability to produce clinically meaningful pain relief, improve the quality of life, and significantly reduce the need for medications," Mr Burgess said.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Pain Australia to ensure timely patient access to this vital technology for Australians who need it."

**ENDS**

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*\*Please note this media release was reissued with an updated correction on an earlier version that was recalled on 20 December 2023.*

## **About MTAA**

The Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) is the national association representing companies in the medical technology industry. MTAA aims to ensure the benefits of modern, innovative and reliable medical technology are delivered effectively to provide better health outcomes to the Australian community.

MTAA represents manufacturers and suppliers of medical technology used in the diagnosis, prevention, treatment and management of disease and disability. The range of medical technology is diverse with products ranging from familiar items such as syringes and wound dressings, through to high-technology implanted devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators, hip and other orthopaedic implants. Products also include hospital and diagnostic imaging equipment such as ultrasounds and magnetic resonance imaging machines.

MTAA members distribute the majority of the non-pharmaceutical products used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and disability in Australia. Our member companies also play a vital role in providing healthcare professionals with essential education and training to ensure safe and effective use of medical technology.