



**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER, THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AGEING AND  
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition, from Soroptimist International Clubs of South Australia, being Adelaide, Barossa, Eastern Districts, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte, Northern Highlands, Port Pirie, Southern Districts and Torrens, draws to the attention of the House this anomaly in Medicare, affecting all Australian women at menopause.

Currently there is no Medicare rebate for bone densitometry for women unless there are special risk factors, a broken bone, or until age 70. This is too late for prevention.

Researchers have demonstrated that, if a woman is scanned at the onset of menopause, her risk of developing osteoporosis can be identified. Preventive treatment then is relatively inexpensive and easily managed. (Prof B E C Nordin, AO, Royal Adelaide Hospital)  
The direct cost of fractures due to osteoporosis in 2002 was \$1.9 billion, the total cost estimated at \$8 billion. (Access Economics)

**We therefore ask the House that all Australian women on reaching menopause be offered free Bone Densitometry to determine their risk of developing osteoporosis.**