Physiotherapy can help improve mental health

Get active.
Stay active.
Talk to a physiotherapist about how to improve your mental health

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#worldptday
There are many reasons physical activity is good for your body – having a healthy heart and improving your joints and bones are two reasons – but did you know being physically active can also benefit your mental health and wellbeing.

We need to change how we view physical activity and see it as something we do because we value the positive difference it makes to our physical and mental health and wellbeing.

**Did you know?**
- 1 in 4 people will experience a mental health condition of some sort during their lifetime
- 1 in 6 people are likely to have had a common mental health problem in the past seven days
- people with mental health issues are more at risk of having poor physical health
- 70% of premature deaths in mental health patients are due to poor physical health
- mental health problems are one of the main causes of the overall disease burden worldwide

Exercise is an evidence-based treatment for people with depression, and physiotherapists work with people who may have depression alongside long-term health issues. Getting and staying physically active will help improve your physical and mental health. Talk to a physiotherapist and discover an exercise or activity you find enjoyable and have fun!

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**How much exercise or physical activity should you be aiming for every week?**

**Moderate intensity for 150 mins per week**
- Raised heart rate • Feel warmer • Breathe faster

**Vigorous intensity for 75 mins per week**
- Difficulty talking • Rapid breathing • More effort

**Strength and balance exercise 2 days per week**
- Improve function • Prevent injury • Less likely to fall

Better outcomes are experienced when exercise is delivered by a qualified healthcare professional, such as a physiotherapist.

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Don’t worry if these targets seem far off, research has shown that even getting started and doing a small amount of physical activity such as ten minutes a day can improve your physical and mental health.