

# OUR PHILOSOPHY FOR PROVIDING A SOLUTION TO **ACL KNEE INJURIES**



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## THE PROBLEM

The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) is located inside the knee joint and stabilizes the joint by preventing the shinbone from sliding forwards beneath the thighbone. An ACL injury involves an extreme tearing of the ligament of the knee. A hard twist, or excessive pressure or force on the ACL can tear it, so that the knee gives out and can no longer support the body.

There is immediate pain at the time of injury and the patient may experience a sensation or a 'pop'. Almost always the patient will be unable to continue playing. Most patients notice swelling straight away, which is caused by bleeding within the joint. Later, when the swelling has decreased there may be "instability" in the joint – the patient's knee may feel unsteady or it wants to give way.

We know that the knee joint and the ACL are a complex group of joints, ligaments and muscles that need to work in the correct biomechanical pattern to help facilitate movements (such as in sport), but also to prevent injury from reoccurring.

The knee requires a strong stable base to function. Pain, spasm and inflammation will develop if you keep using your knee while it is injured. This in turn causes you to develop poor movement patterns. Your walking / running style will be altered and your proprioception (balance) will also be affected. Strength deficits will occur in your knee and the surrounding muscles and joints. These strength, balance and biomechanical deficits will become a habit and you will be consistently in pain or your knee will frequently give way or feel unsteady.

Treatment of your ACL injury will make you feel better. However, if you have the pain treated (massage, mobilization, medications), but do not correct your biomechanics, your balance and strength deficits, you are only receiving a "temporary relief" from your pain, and it is likely that your pain will reoccur. This is only short-term relief, and not a long-term solution. It may very well be that you need to see a specialist for an opinion about surgery.





# Does this sound familiar??

**Roland Jeffery Physiotherapy** take a different approach and will help you to achieve a **SOLUTION**, not just a quick fix.

## THE FIRST PART OF THE SOLUTION.

We will provide you with the acute treatment needed to “remove your pain”. Pain makes you miserable and stops you enjoying life so we need to do this first. We do this after careful assessment of you and your situation.

### We will tell you -

- i) What is wrong
- ii) How we can help you

We will then provide treatment and remove your pain. The time this takes will vary according to how long you have had your pain, but our highly trained physiotherapists will do their best to identify how long this may be.



If you have successfully been through this before, you will know how great it feels when your pain goes away. BUT you may also know that feeling of disappointment, when the pain comes back (often quickly with a simple movement or posture!)

So, if you have not changed any of the factors in your life that may be causing your pain in the first place, it is not surprising that your pain reoccurs.

We also know your knee becomes weak with imbalance and pain, and do not spontaneously correct when pain settles.

Your knee is weak, vulnerable and you are often moving incorrectly! Your pain will reoccur.

# So how do we stop this cycle?

## The Long Term Solution

We then need to look at your underlying movement and postural issues so we can identify the problems and eliminate them.

We do this with a posture and movement analysis. Your physiotherapist will use cutting edge technology and screening tools to look at "how" you are moving.

This will help your physiotherapist advise you on what you need to do to rebuild & restore your core knee strength and movements. If we remove your pain but not change the factors which put you into pain, like poor core stability, poor postural habits or poor movement patterns and weakness, we would be doing you a dis-service. This process of removing the pain and restoring your core and movement will make you feel great.

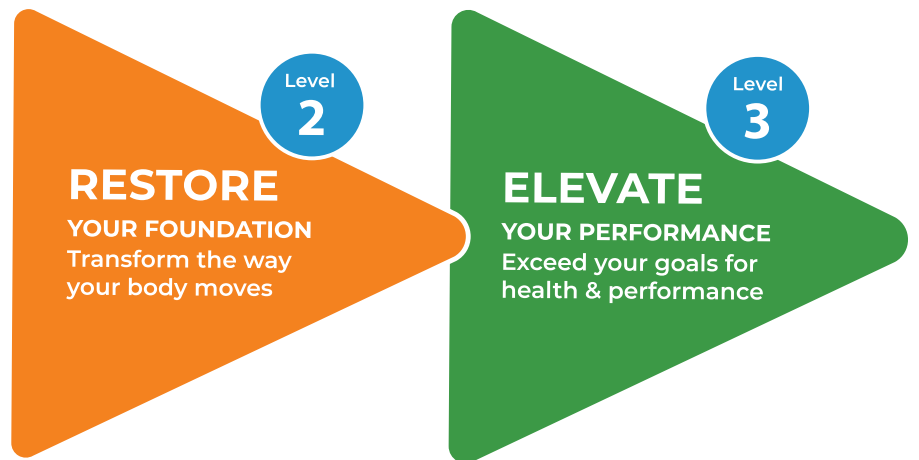
## Prevention/Strength & Improved Performance – Staying Motivated

Feeling great can often lead to a loss of motivation to continue with the preventative aspect of the programme as we further improve your performance and help you achieve your goals.

Your physiotherapist will use the posture & movement analysis to help develop a pathway for you to achieve the goals you mutually agree upon. This pathway document is something unique to you and your condition and it shows where you have come from (pain) and shows where you are heading (improved performance, without pain) by achieving your goals.

This pathway document can be very helpful to keep you motivated whilst you continue to work on strength and conditioning. This is level 3 of your pathway, and is often managed by our highly trained specialized clinical pilates or strength & conditioning therapists.

Your physiotherapist will provide you with options of how you would like to move into level 3 of our ACL knee Injury to performance programme. This may involve individual or group exercise to encourage you to continue with a self-management plan or a home programme.



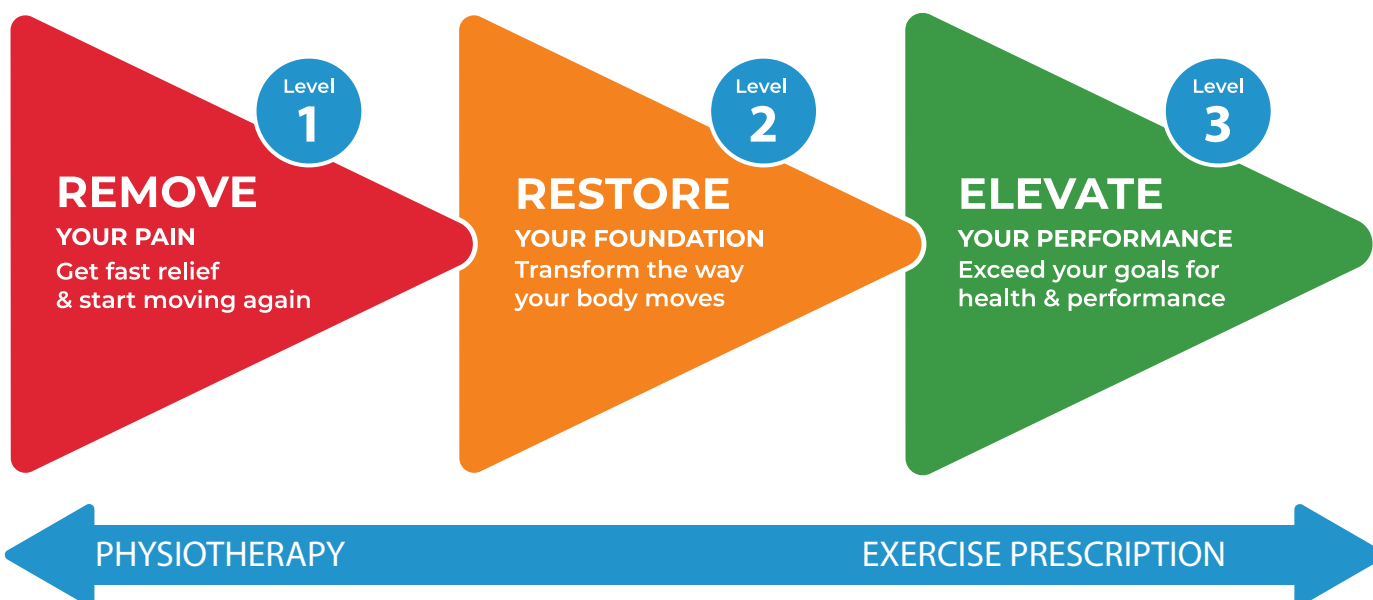
## In Summary

We hope you can see that our Pain to Performance philosophy does more than just get you pain free. It keeps you pain free.

By developing exercise habits and an "exercise for life" mentality, you can be confident that you have beaten your pain and can get back into the life goals you have set for yourself and improve your performance in these life goals.

Good luck and.....What are you waiting for?

Grab hold of that goal you have set for yourself and enjoy life once again.



Ask your physiotherapist if you are ready for our posture and movement analysis, so we can design a programme to individually restore your knee movement, strength and function.