



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**

Ms Kate Gilbert  
Founder and President  
Type 1 Diabetes Network  
PO Box 1293  
KENSINGTON VIC 3031

Dear Ms Gilbert

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2008 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, introducing the Type 1 Diabetes Opinion Leaders Group. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

I am delighted to learn of the development of the Type 1 Diabetes Opinion Leaders Group and appreciate the positive contribution this group will make in improving outcomes for Australians of all ages who live with type 1 diabetes.

The Government is concerned at the increasing incidence of type 1 diabetes in the community and particularly the difficulties encountered by people with type 1 diabetes in managing the condition.

You may be aware that the Government announced in the Budget a commitment to subsidise insulin pumps for young people with type 1 diabetes from 1 November 2008. This measure, costing \$5.5m over four years, will provide a means-tested subsidy of up to \$2,500 for around 700 people with type 1 diabetes under the age of 18. A sliding scale of subsidy applies, with the greatest assistance going to those with the least ability to pay for an insulin pump. Families with gross incomes of up to around \$60,000 (indexed) per year will receive the highest amount of subsidy of \$2,500. For families earning over around \$98,000 (indexed) per year the subsidy is \$500.

Thank you for informing the Minister about this valuable group. I look forward to working with you in the future and would welcome a copy of the *Statement of Issues affecting Australians with Type 1 Diabetes* report that the Type 1 Diabetes Opinion Leaders Group intends to develop.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Ritchie'.

Craig Ritchie  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
Chronic Disease Branch  
4 July 2008