



1 August 2008

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP  
Minister for Health and Ageing  
MG 50  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Roxon,

**Re: Early advice of Outcomes from The Type 1 Diabetes Opinion Leaders Group**

Further to our previous correspondence, we write to advise you that the work of the Type 1 Diabetes Opinion Leaders Group has progressed well, and ten key issues have been identified. It has been a very constructive process with many solutions also developed alongside each issue.

The first and central proposed solution is a Centre for Excellence in Type 1 Diabetes.

We would like to invite the Department of Health and Ageing to comment on this proposal.

**ISSUE 1: Access to specialist medical advice is very limited, especially in rural and regional areas**

**SOLUTION: A Centre for Excellence in Type 1 Diabetes needs to be established in Australia, with early tasks to develop:**

- Evidence-based guidelines for Type 1 diabetes in adults, and consumer resources
- Internet-based communications to extend access to specialists for rural & regional areas
- Systematic review of current evidence and consumer information
- Research and evidence base where critical gaps exist and disseminate to health professionals and consumers.

I attach a Final Draft of the full Statement for your information, in advance of the launch.

**The Statement will be launched on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 2.30pm**, in a session at the annual conference of the Australian Diabetes Educators and Australian Diabetes Societies at Melbourne Exhibition Centre. The Hon. Guy Barnett, Senator for Tasmania, who has Type 1 Diabetes himself, will launch the Statement.

We would welcome the contribution and response of yourself or a representative at the launch. I am contactable by phone on 0402 515 825 or email [kate@d1.org.au](mailto:kate@d1.org.au) should you wish to discuss the invitation.

Yours sincerely,

**Kate Gilbert**  
**Founder & President**

cc: Craig Ritchie, Acting Assistant Secretary, Chronic Disease Branch