

Hon John Hill MP



**Government
of South Australia**

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Ms Kate Gilbert
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Dear Ms Gilbert

Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2009 about the development of *A Statement of Issues affecting Australians with Type 1 Diabetes*. In your letter, you have requested an update on activities that SA Health is undertaking that may address the Statement.

SA Health has addressed your request in an attachment to this letter.

Health services in South Australia are working in an environment of reform to improve both health service delivery and the patient experience. I would be grateful if the information attached could be considered in light of the current reform agenda.

South Australian public health services are aware of the issues contained within the Statement, and are actively improving their services within the health reform context.

I wish you every success with your speech at the World Diabetes Congress. SA Health would be interested to receive feedback from the Congress that would assist in improving the health and wellbeing of people who have type 1 diabetes.

If you have any further queries in relation to this matter, you are welcome to contact Mr Bruce Whitby, A/Director of Service Modernisation within SA Health, on telephone (08) 8226 6020.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hill'.

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Date: 2.9.09

SA Health response to A Statement of Issues affecting Australians with Type 1 Diabetes

In June 2007, SA Health released *South Australia's Health Care Plan 2007- 2016*. The Plan outlines new investment in hospitals, improvements in chronic and complex disease management, promotion of healthy lifestyles and illness prevention. The new health system outlined in the Health Care Plan aims to achieve the best balance between enhancing hospital services and strengthening primary health care services, making them more accessible to people in the community. Strengthening primary health care will involve new models of early intervention provided through newly established GP Plus Health Care Centres, which will help South Australians take responsibility for their health care, stay healthy and keep out of hospital.

Also under *South Australia's Health Care Plan 2007-2016*, the GP Plus Health Care Strategy, which was released August 2007, describes how primary health care will become a major focus over the next 10 years in South Australia. The overarching aims of the South Australian GP Plus Health Care Strategy include:

- Taking a population health approach in planning the level and location of services to ensure services meet the needs of local populations where they can be provided safely, effectively and efficiently.
- Providing a consistent approach to service delivery with a focus on the needs of the individuals and communities rather than the needs of the provider.
- Continuing the enhancement of hospital substitution programs.
- Improving the co-ordination and integration of services to present a complete system of health care to the consumer.
- Ensuring affordability and long term financial sustainability of health services in South Australia.

Furthermore, in February 2009, SA Health released the *Chronic Disease Action Plan for South Australia 2009-2018* as a further commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of those who are at risk of or have a diagnosed chronic disease. The Plan includes actions to improve the early detection of chronic disease, improve care planning, increase opportunities for patient self management, develop co-ordinated case management for clients with complex conditions, improve information sharing among health professionals, and introduce better monitoring of people once they have a diagnosis of chronic disease.

There are a range of activities across SA Health addressing improved treatment and care for people with Type 1 diabetes:

- SA Health is improving access to specialist medical advice, with specialist clinics across metropolitan hospitals for patients and increased clinical staffing. In terms of country patients, Country Health SA currently funds the Diabetes Outreach program, which is co-located with The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Diabetes Centre. The service provides continuing education and support programs for health care providers and assistance with service planning. In collaboration with the Divisions of General Practice, Diabetes Outreach also provides medical talks in key rural areas.
- Education programs are provided across hospitals and within SA Health for staff to enable better awareness and improved treatment of Type 1 diabetes. Through the GP Plus Strategy, more resources have been made available for diabetes in the acute sector, enabling improved management of all people diagnosed with diabetes.
- Multi-disciplinary diabetes teams have been established across hospitals to better plan the treatment of people with Type 1 diabetes.

- Health services work with the Department of Education and Children's Services, Diabetes SA and the Royal District Nursing Service in this State to provide teachers and other students with information and support on Type 1 diabetes.
- Health services are committed to providing good access to Type 1 diabetes patients, and there is an intensive focus on adolescent patients.
- Health services are working on improved long term monitoring of patients for improved care and treatment outcomes.