



**Deputy Premier of Western Australia  
Minister for Health; Indigenous Affairs**

Our Ref: 25-06742

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

Dear Ms Gilbert

Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2009 concerning *A Statement of Issues affecting Australians with Type 1 Diabetes*.

The issues covered by the statement are a comprehensive summary of the problems facing an individual with type 1 diabetes.

The increasing incidence of the disease, the complexity of its management and the serious adverse consequences of inadequate treatment makes Type 1 Diabetes a priority for the health care system.

In Western Australia, there have been a number of important new initiatives that have been put into place to enhance the provision of diabetes care. These include:

- The establishment of a Diabetes and Endocrine Health Network with both clinician and consumer representation to advise and guide state-wide diabetes policy and planning. At the forefront of the work of this network is the implementation of a comprehensive Diabetes Model of Care for Western Australia.
- A centralised centre of excellence for paediatric and adolescent diabetes that is staffed by a multidisciplinary and expert team.
- Satellite team visits and clinics to regional areas throughout the state that both provide enhanced care to children and adolescents with diabetes and educate and increase the professional capacity of local health care providers.
- A 24 hour telephone advice service with access to specialists in diabetes for all children and adolescents in the state.
- Establishment of young adult clinics in adult hospitals with improved communication with the paediatric centres to facilitate effective transition during the vulnerable older adolescent/young adult stage.

- Improved mental health services for individuals with Type 1 Diabetes.
- Financial support of Diabetes WA to provide the Diabetes Information and Advice Line (DIAL), the provision specific information to people with Type 1 Diabetes plus a range of other community based programs for people with diabetes.

While this activity is substantially improving the care and support of people with Type 1 Diabetes in Western Australia, I also recognise that there is more to be done. The statement of issues developed by the Type 1 Diabetes Network is an important piece of work that informs and advocates for future change to address this serious problem.

Best wishes for a successful presentation at the World Diabetes Congress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Hames', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Kim Hames MLA  
DEPUTY PREMIER  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH  
10 AUG 2009