



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

MC21-038910

Mr Ken O'Dowd MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
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Dear Chair

I refer to your correspondence of 22 November 2021 concerning petition EN3240 requesting the Omnipod DASH Insulin Delivery System (Omnipod) be added to the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS).

The Australian Government is aware of the significant impact diabetes has on people with diabetes and their families and is committed to working towards the broad prevention of the disease in the Australian community. The Omnipod system is a new style of insulin pump for which there are no directly comparable products currently subsidised through the NDSS. The product sponsor for Omnipod has submitted a request for subsidisation of this product and my Department is currently working with the sponsor to identify a potential funding pathway. Depending on the outcome of this process, a decision to list Omnipod on the NDSS product schedule may need to be considered through the Federal Budget process.

While the OmniPod DASH system is not currently included on the NDSS, a range of insulin pump consumables are currently subsidised. Further information about NDSS products, and more specifically insulin pump consumables, can be found at: www.ndss.com.au.

The Government provides considerable financial support to people with diabetes through the subsidy of essential medicines, like insulin, under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and diabetes-related products, like blood glucose test strips, through the NDSS. In 2020–21, PBS expenditure on medicines for diabetes was over \$709 million and expenditure on products for diabetes supplied through the NDSS was \$186 million.

Not only does the NDSS provide subsidised syringes and needles, blood glucose test strips, urine ketone test strips and insulin pump consumables to people with diabetes, it also provides educational and information services to assist in the best use of products and self-management of diabetes.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hunt