



The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

Ref No: MC23-012430

Ms Susan Templeman MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
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Dear Chair

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 June 2023 regarding Petition EN5105 – a proposal to extend access to subsidised continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) products through the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) to people with type 2 diabetes.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting Australians with diabetes and their families.

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 other diabetes-related products, like blood glucose test strips, through the NDSS.

In 2021-22, PBS expenditure on medicines for diabetes was \$804 million and expenditure on products for diabetes supplied through the NDSS was over \$196 million.

Since 1 July 2022, all Australians with type 1 diabetes have been able to access subsidised CGM products through the NDSS.

This follows implementation of a \$273.1 million election commitment made by the Government to provide an additional 71,000 people with type 1 diabetes access to subsidised CGM products, with an affordable co-payment equivalent to \$32.50 per month.

Access arrangements will not change for people already eligible to receive free CGM products under the NDSS (including children and young people aged under 21 with type 1 diabetes, women with type 1 diabetes who are planning for pregnancy, pregnant or immediately post-pregnancy, and people with type 1 diabetes aged 21 and over who have a concession card).

Following implementation of this expansion, the Government will continue to monitor the operation of the scheme. This will inform Government consideration of any further expansion of the scheme to adults with other forms of diabetes.

Further information about the NDSS and CGM products, including detailed eligibility criteria, is available at www.ndss.com.au.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mark Butler

17/07/2023