



Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport
House of Representatives
Parliament of Australia
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email Health.Reps@aph.gov.au

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Submission to Inquiry into Diabetes

Dear members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into Diabetes.

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is the recognised national peak association representing Australia's allied health professions across all disciplines and settings. AHPA's membership collectively represents some 145,000 allied health professionals, and AHPA advocates on behalf of all Australian allied health practitioners.

Allied health professionals work across a diverse range of settings and sectors, including providing diagnostic and first-contact services, and preventive and maintenance-focused interventions for people with chronic and complex physical and mental illnesses.

We write to support the detailed submissions to the Inquiry from three of our 27 full member organisations: Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA), Dietitians Australia (DA) and Exercise & Sports Science Australia (ESSA).

Chronic and complex health conditions have significant impacts on health and wellbeing, and the most disadvantaged populations in Australia tend to bear the greatest burden. As the submissions detail, diabetes is one such condition, and Australia needs better strategies to address the interconnected factors that can both lead to and be associated with pre-diabetes and diabetes.

ADEA, DA and ESSA, and their associated submissions, exemplify the allied health ethos and approach to practice that is critical to preventing, ameliorating and managing chronic and complex conditions like diabetes. Allied health emphasises the importance of intervening early, in order to prevent and reduce deaths, hospitalisations and surgeries, and improve quality of life. This approach also makes fiscal sense, because it reduces the significant costs to our economy resulting from delayed intervention.

Allied health providers such as diabetes educators, dietitians and exercise physiologists are also highly credentialled, and their person-centred and holistic clinical practice is evidence-based. As is evident in the submissions, these three groups of professionals collaborate with one another

Advocating on behalf of Australia's allied health professions to create fairer and more equitable health, aged care and disability systems.

and advocate for recognition of the value of providing diverse forms of care and support for people with or at risk of diabetes.

AHPA commends the three submissions to the Committee, and in particular, strongly endorses their recommendations for prevention and early intervention via collaborative multidisciplinary team care.

Kind regards



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