



3 August 2008

The Hon. Dr Kim Hames MLA MBBS
Shadow Minister for Health and Indigenous Affairs
Parliament of Western Australia
PO Box 5551
FALCON WA 6210

Dear Dr Hames,

Re: Launch: A Statement of Issues effecting Australians with Type 1 Diabetes, 29 August 2008

Further to our correspondence on 15 June 2008, we write to advise you that the work of the Type 1 Diabetes Opinion Leaders Group has progressed well.

Ten key issues have been identified as requiring urgent attention to improve Type 1 Diabetes in Australia. It has been a very constructive process with many solutions also developed alongside each issue.

The issues that have been identified are as follows:

1. **Access to specialist medical advice** is very limited, especially in rural and regional areas
2. **Complexity** of Type 1 Diabetes is not well understood nor managed
3. **Coping with long-term complications** of Type 1 Diabetes is left to the individual with limited support
4. **Hospital admissions**, planned & emergency, are managed poorly when a diabetes team not involved
5. **System for the essential long-term monitoring** of Type 1 Diabetes is inefficient and highly ineffective
6. **Adolescence and young adulthood** is a critical stage with the worst outcomes
7. **Access to best treatments and medical technologies** is dependent on ability to pay, not medical need
8. **Training schools** about the basic needs of children with Type 1 Diabetes occurs haphazardly
9. **Peer learning** opportunities are essential but very limited and difficult to access
10. **Leadership and advocacy** for Type 1 Diabetes needs to be strengthened urgently

The Statement of Issues effecting Australians with Type 1 Diabetes will be launched on Friday 29th August at 2.30pm, in a session at the annual conference of the Australian Diabetes Society and the Australian Diabetes Educators Association at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre.

The Hon. Guy Barnett, Senator for Tasmania, who has Type 1 Diabetes himself, will launch the Statement. Other speakers will include A/Prof Maarten Kamp, Paediatric Endocrinologist and President of the Australian Diabetes Society and a consumer representative from the Opinion Leaders Group.

We would like to invite you or a representative of your Department to attend the launch.

I am contactable by phone on 0402 515 825 or email kate@d1.org.au should you wish to discuss the invitation.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Gilbert
Founder & President