



30 January 2008

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Roxon,

Re: National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) Supply-Chain Review

We understand that the Department of Health and Ageing recently launched a review of the National Diabetes Services Scheme with specific regard to the effectiveness of delivery mechanisms and supply-chain management for diabetes supplies, with the contract for the review having recently been awarded to an independent firm.

The Type 1 Diabetes Network is a ten year-old health promotion charity which supports Australian with Type 1 diabetes and the health professionals who support us. People with Type 1 diabetes represented 15% of registrants to the NDSS at 31 December 2007, and due to the nature of this type of diabetes, we are the most frequent and long-term users of this important system.

Our members, people with Type 1 diabetes, have advised us that they have had a range of different experiences using the system, which we believe would make a valuable contribution to this review.

Could you please advise whether there is a consumer consultation phase included in this review? And if so, how our members might be able to contribute their experiences and suggestions towards this process?

We look forward to your advice.

Yours faithfully,

Kate Gilbert
President

EMBARGOED
MONDAY 15 OCTOBER 2007

**NATIONAL DIABETES SERVICES SCHEME (NDSS) SUPPLY-CHAIN
REVIEW UNDERWAY**

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing today announced that PharmConsult has won the contract to conduct the supply-chain review for the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS).

Diabetes Australia was involved in the selection process for the tender along with representatives from the Department of Health and Ageing and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Diabetes Australia was impressed with the level of competition and the high quality of applicants that were considered as part of the tender process.

"I congratulate PharmConsult on their success and I look forward to working with them throughout the review," said Diabetes Australia CEO, Mr Matt O'Brien. "It was a rigorous tender process and a much sought after contract."

The concept for the review was initiated by the Department of Health and Ageing and comes on the back of a successful review of the NDSS administrative processes during the 2001-2006 NDSS Agreement. This latest review will look at the effectiveness of Diabetes Australia's delivery mechanisms and supply-chain management for diabetes supplies. It will also analyse the current effectiveness of product purchase, distribution and warehouse management of products, and identify any potential areas for improvement.

PharmConsult will begin the review in October 2007 and it is expected to run for approximately six months.

Mr O'Brien said that Diabetes Australia is enthusiastic about the potential of the review to help improve processes and is looking forward to its outcomes.

The NDSS provides practical support to over 800,000 Australians diagnosed with diabetes through the delivery of subsidised diagnostic test strips, insulin infusion pump consumables and syringes. The Australian Government provided \$114 million of funding in the last financial year to support the program, an increase of \$9 million over the previous financial year.

The National Diabetes Services Scheme is an initiative of the Australian Government administered by Diabetes Australia.

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