Your personal/ private letterhead

Recipient’s address (see below for list of details)

Dear [salutation and name]

The Government’s Intergenerational reports as well as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) review of “Australia’s Health 2010” have identified the unsustainable costs of the projected health and ageing challenges which will impact greatly on the future health care of all

I am a clinician/ researcher engaged in (information about your research / clinical activities)

It is my belief that bi-partisan support for investment in health and medical research through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is essential for Australia to mitigate the projected, unsustainable escalation in health expenditure. Health and Ageing expenditure is currently more than 25 % of Government spending and projected to increase to almost a half of total spend by 2050with the proportion of personal income spent on Privatehealth Insurance doubling by 2062.

The unprecedented health and economic challenges articulated by the Intergenerational Reports and the AIHW review of “Australia’s Health 2010” are a call to responsible action by government. HMR cannot address all of the economic challenges we face but it does hold the key to substantially alleviating the projected health spend which threatens our future.

* Health and Medical Research (HMR) between 1993 and 2005 is estimated to have returned a net benefit of $29.5 billion.
* Every dollar invested in HMR returns on average $2.17 in health benefits.
* Investment in NHMRC between 2000-10 is projected to save $966 million in direct and indirect costs to the health system.
* Gains of $6 billion linked to increased well-being from NHMRC investment between 2000-10.

Currently, NHMRC investment is approximately 0.6% of the total annual health expenditure. I believe government must lift this funding to 1% as soon as possible (which equates to an immediate injection of $300M), and increment by 0.2% each year to reach 3% in 10 years from now. This increased investment will mitigate escalating health expenditure with a conservative estimate of $25.9 billion in savings to the Australian economy.

Yours sincerely,

Date: …..

**Addresses:**

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Your local MP