

NATIONAL DIABETES WEEK 2017 (9–15 JULY)

LETTER TO LOCAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Call to Action: Take a Stand

Dear (insert name of your local Victorian Member of Parliament)
(<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/members/>)

Diabetes is one of the largest global health emergencies of the 21st century. Each year, more and more people live with this condition, which can result in life-changing complications. If diabetes was a country, it would be the world's third largest.

I am one of the people living with diabetes/affected by diabetes. In Victoria, more than 310,000 people live with diabetes and another 125,000 Victorians are estimated to have undiagnosed diabetes. The cost impact of diabetes in Australia has been estimated at \$14.6 billion each year.

Sadly, in 2017 diabetes is still a life-long condition that needs daily monitoring. **The only way we can turn things around is by finding a cure.** And the only way to find a cure is through medical research.

Diabetes Victoria offers a full range of services to help the more than 310,000 Victorians currently living with diabetes. They provide services designed for people living with type 1, type 2 or gestational diabetes. Diabetes Victoria is funding as much research as possible, but they need your help!

The Diabetes Australia Research Program supports and develops outstanding diabetes research in Australia. This is done by funding a range of grants across the full spectrum of diabetes research through a merit-based, competitive, peer review process. Research projects focus on prevention, management of diabetes, or the search for a cure. Researchers are making great progress in all areas, but need your continued support to make a difference.

Every year, due to a lack of funding, Diabetes Victoria has to decline numerous research proposals, many of which seem promising and worthy of support. It's devastating to think that one such research proposal could provide the breakthrough that is desperately needed.

For example, in 2017 Diabetes Victoria funded over 17 diabetes research projects in Victoria and a further 127 researchers applied and missed out.

As my local Member of Parliament, I ask you to support Diabetes Victoria's efforts to fund more research into finding a cure for diabetes. I know that research is the key to changing lives and I look forward to hearing from you so we can work together to fund a cure for diabetes.

(Signature)

P.S. You can learn how many people in your electorate live with diabetes here:
diabetesmap.com.au

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