

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: minister.hunt@health.gov.au

18 December 2018

Dear Minister,

Health Peak and Advisory Bodies Program (HPAB)

We write to express our appreciation for the recent announcement with respect to the Health Peak and Advisory Bodies funding program. Agencies such as ours experience a constant challenge with regard to funding stability so a commitment of resources through to 2022 is most welcome.

Nonetheless we feel it important to raise the question of the absence of inclusion of CPI into the funding decision.

Like all parts of the economy, be it government, business or the “for purpose” sector, ongoing price increases through inflation add real costs to our operations. Like all others in the community we face the challenge of attracting and retaining high quality staff and the meeting ongoing increasing cost of providing programs and services, compliance and infrastructure costs and in contributing high quality evidence-based input to government policy deliberations.

The HPAB funding program was first announced in 2015. Fixed quantum funding to our organisations unindexed until 2022 will result in a cumulative real reduction in the vicinity of 16%. In a sector where resources are extremely scarce this real reduction cannot result in anything other than a reduction in service and capacity for the important work we do in policy development and the provision of advice to government.

We remain grateful for the recent announcement and appreciative of your support for our calls for a clear outcome well in advance of the conclusion of the current funding round in June 2019.

We do however ask that you reconsider the issue of inclusion of adequate CPI provisions so as to allow us the resources to maintain the high quality of work we are proud to deliver to benefit the health of all Australians.

Your sincerely,

Terry Slevin
Chief Executive Officer



Leanne Wells
Chief Executive Officer



Darryl O'Donnell
Chief Executive Officer



Mark Diamond
Chief Executive Officer



Claire Hewat
Chief Executive Officer



Alison Verhoeven
Chief Executive Officer



Dee Hopkins
Chief Executive Officer



Tamara McKee
Interim Chief Executive Officer



Rowan Cockerell
Chief Executive Officer



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Helen Tyrell
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Chief Executive Officer



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Chief Executive Officer

