

Submission to the Parliamentary Enquiry on Diabetes

I have type 2 diabetes but use insulin, which I inject multiple times per day. Therefore, I am at risk of high and low sugar events and am obliged to monitor my blood sugar levels regularly and frequently.

I can achieve satisfactory monitoring with frequent finger pricks but even better and more continuous monitoring is available from skin patches measuring interstitial fluid glucose levels. Such patches are expensive and are not subsidised for type 2 diabetes, so that I use them only on special occasions such as on extended bushwalks.

While there is an argument that blood glucose monitoring makes little difference to long term outcomes in type 2 diabetes, that does not apply to type 2 diabetics requiring insulin. I therefore respectfully submit to the Enquiry that subsidising the use of patches/continuous monitoring for all insulin using diabetics is worthwhile and cost-effective.