

21<sup>st</sup> March 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a 54-year-old male who has suffered from Epilepsy for over 20 years. With the right treatment and medication, it has been under control for the past 17 years. This has had a positive impact on my work and home life. Previously, with uncontrolled epilepsy, many jobs were unsuitable due to being medically restricted to drive. As a qualified diesel mechanic, I required a driver's license and also in my current management role.

I have lived and worked in a remote community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in north-west South Australia since 2017 with my 52-year-old wife. She was also diagnosed with epilepsy in 2019 and has been suffering from ongoing seizures ever since.

Due to our location, we have very limited access to a doctor and no access to any Neurologists without having to travel to Adelaide each time, which is approximately 1300 kilometres away from where we live. Each time she has to attend an appointment in person, we must take a week of leave to allow the time to travel and recover. Therefore, she now has very limited paid leave available.

Because we live in an Aboriginal community, we cannot access the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme to assist with travel and accommodation expenses. This is having a major effect on my wife's mental health, causing her to have more seizures. Therefore, being able to access the treatment required is becoming very expensive.

Recently she had an appointment with her Neurologist in Adelaide, but due to the fact that the current medication she has been prescribed has not been effective in reducing or stopping her seizures, she has now been referred to another Neurologist in Melbourne. This will further impact her availability for paid work leave, as well as putting further pressure on our finances due to flights and accommodation costs. This will negatively impact my wife's mental health, which can lead to further seizures.

We do not want to leave our current employment, as we have a very active role in mentoring and supporting the indigenous people of the APY Lands. However, feel that due to the lack of medical care, and lack of funding and support from both the State and Federal Governments, that this may be the only option we currently have.