



australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

19 June 2020

Hon Greg Hunt MP  
Minister for Health  
Australian Government  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Hunt,

**Re: ASCIA response to the Report on the Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis**

We write on behalf of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA), the peak professional body for clinical immunology/allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand.

Thank you for the Australian Government's recognition of the importance of allergies and anaphylaxis to the community, which led to your announcement of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis at the national ASCIA Conference in September 2019.

ASCIA wishes to also extend its thanks to the Committee Members and Secretariat for their excellent work in conducting this Inquiry, as well as all of those individuals and organisations who made submissions to the Inquiry that culminated in the comprehensive and insightful Report tabled in Parliament on 15 June 2020.

ASCIA welcomes the recommendations in the Report, and the recognition of ASCIA's pivotal and leading role in improving the care of Australians with allergic disease. We are enthusiastic to work closely with the Australian Government over the coming months to develop a comprehensive plan and budget to implement the recommendations in the Report.

Addressing the challenge of allergies and anaphylaxis for the benefit of all Australians requires a long-term commitment, and ASCIA appreciates the acknowledgement of this in the Report.

As the peak professional body for allergies and anaphylaxis, with membership including allergy specialists, other medical practitioners with an interest in allergy (including paediatricians and general practitioners), nurses, dietitians, other allied health professionals, laboratory scientists and researchers, ASCIA is keen to assist the Australian Government in leading a collaboration of key stakeholders to realise the Committee's vision of a National Centre for Allergies and Anaphylaxis in Australia.

ASCIA is confident that implementing the recommendations in the Report will lead to improved outcomes for patients and the community through:

- Improving access to timely, appropriate and affordable diagnosis and management for all Australians with allergies,
- Developing and implementing national standards for management of allergies and anaphylaxis (including drug allergy) in healthcare and community settings, to ensure consistently high-quality care is provided to all Australians with allergies,

- Training and education for management of allergies and anaphylaxis that ensures accessible, consistent and evidence based information is provided throughout Australia, and
- Research to better understand the causes, epidemiology and treatment of allergies and anaphylaxis.

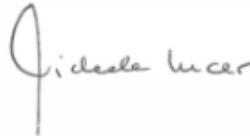
We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in the coming weeks to discuss how ASCIA can work with the Australian Government to implement the recommendations in this Report and achieve these benefits for all Australians.

On behalf of ASCIA, we thank you and the Committee again for undertaking this Inquiry and look forward to arranging a time to meet.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Brynn Wainstein  
ASCIA President



Clinical Professor Michaela Lucas  
ASCIA President Elect



Associate Professor Jane Peake  
ASCIA Director



Dr Michael O'Sullivan  
ASCIA Director



Jill Smith  
ASCIA CEO

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Inquiry Committee - Honourable Members Mr Trent Zimmerman MP (Chair), Dr Mike Freeland MP (Deputy Chair), Mrs Bridget Archer MP, Ms Angie Bell MP, Mr Milton Dick MP, Dr Fiona Martin MP, Mrs Lucy Wicks MP, Mr Tony Zappia MP, Dr Katie Allen MP.

ASCIA Co-Chair, National Allergy Strategy - Dr Preeti Joshi