

Dr David McDonald MBBS FRACP DA
Senior Lecturer Paediatrics U.N.S.W.
Consultant Paediatrician
Port Macquarie Base Hospital



6th February 2013

PBS Post Marketing

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Provision of Insulin Pumps for children less than 18 with T1 Diabetes

I would strongly like to support an enhancement in government funding for children and adolescents that require an insulin pump to manage Type 1 Diabetes.

I have worked as a Regional Paediatrician on the Mid north Coast of NSW for twenty three years. The majority of children in my area with Type 1 Diabetes are from disadvantaged families.

Insulin pumps offer a dramatic advance in the treatment of Type 1 Diabetes. They are well tolerated by families, offer improved glycaemic control and consequently delayed development of the serious complications of Type 1 Diabetes, and are clearly the preferred method of treatment of Type 1 Diabetes in 2013 by informed doctors.

It is **beyond outrageous** that vulnerable children with Type 1 Diabetes are not allowed access to the best treatment available. It is also economically stupid. As hospital admission costs are of the order of \$2,500 per day, a saving of just four days of hospital admission over a lifetime means that better treatment with an insulin pumps becomes cost neutral. A reduction of 1% in haemoglobin A1c for a child equates to ten complication free years as an adult. It is clear that it is economically sensible that pumps are provided with government subsidisation to all children with Type 1 Diabetes who would prefer that therapy. It is also humane.

The UK National Health Service offers pumps subsidised by the NHS. It is about time Australia did the same.

I am profoundly saddened by the government's failure to adequately address this issue and protect a vulnerable group of children.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David McDonald
Staff Specialist Paediatrician - Port Macquarie Base Hospital
Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics,
UNSW