

08 February 2013

Review Committee
Insulin Pump Program Review
Department of Health and Ageing
MDP 900
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

To whom it may concern

RE: Insulin Pump Program

My 15-year-old daughter ***** has Type 1 Diabetes. ***** is fortunate that my Husband and I have been able to afford insulin pump therapy, the best available treatment for her chronic condition. However thousands of Australian families are not so lucky. Many lower income families are missing out on insulin pump therapy because they cannot afford health insurance or the \$8000 purchase price of a pump.

Insulin pumps are proven to be greatly beneficial in the management of type 1 diabetes. In addition to alleviating the intrusive daily regime of insulin injections and diet management, they help minimise dangerous fluctuations in blood sugar that can result in long term health complications such as blindness, heart disease, kidney failure, limb amputation or coma.

Apart from the health benefits of better blood glucose control, *****'s insulin pump has made a huge improvement in *****'s quality of life. ***** was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of seven. ***** has always had a fear of needles so it was torture for her to have to endure the 3 insulin injections she needed every day before she got her pump. It was extremely distressing for me to have to administer those needles, knowing how scared she was each and every time. ***** has been on insulin pump therapy for six years, she now needs only one needle every three days compared to the multiple daily injections that she would need to tolerate now. That alone has made our family life infinitely less stressful. ***** has even commented to me that on insulin pump therapy, she sometimes forgets that she has diabetes.

I strongly urge you to continue to support the insulin pump program as I believe that other children with type 1 diabetes should not be denied the improved health and other benefits an insulin pump can bring just because they cannot afford one.

Yours sincerely
