

To whom it may concern

**RE: Submission for the Review of Insulin Pumps**

The following submission relates to the clinical benefits of insulin pump therapy for type 1 Diabetes. The submission is a personal account of the impact on the quality of life of our family since our son started insulin pump therapy.

Anyone who has ever had to care for a three year old child will understand that it's often not easy to get them to eat. So what do you do if they are diagnosed, at three years of age, with a chronic, autoimmune disease, with no cure, that requires them to eat a specific amount of, a specific type of food, at a specific time each day?

This is the dilemma we faced when our three year old son \*\*\*\*\* was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. For over twelve months we struggled to maintain his blood glucose levels within a healthy range while dealing with the whims, fussiness and fickleness of a typical three year old boy. Our lives became a constant cycle of insulin injections, feeding (sometimes force feeding) and desperately hoping, that blood glucose levels wouldn't drop as a result of a more vigorous play in the park than normal, or a particularly hot day. There was no room for spontaneity, unplanned excursions or events. There was the psychological strain: having to ensure that all contingencies were catered for, even for the shortest outing; the worry that day care wouldn't be able to deal with \*\*\*\*\* not wanting to eat; the concern that the focus on food would translate to an eating disorder; the struggle to inject \*\*\*\*\* with two-three needles per day; the constant fear that at any time, on any day, your little boy could slip into a coma because he had too much insulin in his system or the insulin wasn't working the way it was supposed to.

Just before \*\*\*\*\* started Kindergarten, we decided to start him on an insulin pump. **It was the best thing we did for our little boy as well as for our family.**

The insulin pump gave us all freedom.

\*\*\*\*\* no longer had to be force fed in order to 'feed the insulin' that was already in his system from an insulin injection. \*\*\*\*\* could sleep when he wanted, eat when and how much he wanted and even eat carbohydrate free meals if he wanted.

As parents, the fear of hypoglycaemia lessened significantly as the pump enabled us to more accurately adjust to \*\*\*\*\*'s insulin needs on a half hourly basis. The pump enabled us to be more flexible in where we went, less stressed about feeding \*\*\*\*\* , and gave us a greater sense of control over the disease. We worried less about the psychological impact that this chronic disease was having on our child because the pump was less obtrusive in \*\*\*\*\*'s life. The pump meant the \*\*\*\*\*'s life could be as close to 'normal' as possible while living with type 1 diabetes.

Every family experiences a type 1 diabetes diagnosis differently. Every family copes differently. What is the same for all of us is the instinctive need to protect our children and provide them with the best care possible. Although insulin pump therapy may not be the solution for all families, it is imperative that those who can benefit from it have access to it.

Insulin pump therapy gave our family freedom. Freedom is a basic human right. If families are able to experience greater freedom from the burden of type 1 diabetes through the use of insulin pump therapy, then we are obliged to provide access to such therapy.