

24 June 2021

Ms Ged Kearney MP  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Health and Ageing  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**By email: [Ged.Kearney.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Ged.Kearney.MP@aph.gov.au)**

Dear Shadow Assistant Minister

As we head into another year of learning to live with the COVID-19 pandemic, health and wellbeing is at the forefront of the nation's consciousness. Dietitians improve the health and quality of life of Australians through food and nutrition and with increased availability of their services, the reduction of chronic disease. This in turn will lead to benefits to our health care system.

Dietitians Australia has long advocated for recognition of our role. Our recent work includes:

- **Aged care** – Series of [8 position statements](#) on the role of food and nutrition in aged care, presented at the National Congress on food, nutrition and the dining experience in aged care. This includes advocating that the Royal Commission Report recommendation of an extra \$10 a day for residents to be spent on improving nutrition only.
- **Telehealth** – [Position paper](#) on the benefits of telehealth including access to dietetic services and the need for this to become permanent.
- **Mental health** – [Briefing paper](#) on the role of food and nutrition in mental health
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health** – [Submission](#) in response to the Senate Inquiry into Food Pricing and Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities
- **Disability** – [Briefing paper](#) on the provision of food and nutrition for people with disability

I would like to meet with you to discuss the role dietitians and nutrition play in health and wellbeing. Of particular concern is ensuring the Aged Care Royal Commission recommendations around food and nutrition are implemented and we would welcome your assistance in this matter. If we can offer any assistance to you and your colleagues as the alternative government, we are more than happy to do so.

I look forward to hearing from your office to organise a meeting at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt  
Chief Executive Officer