



The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health

OFFICIAL

Mr Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer
Dietitians Australia
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Our ref M23/198

Dear Mr Hunt

Thank you for sharing Dietitians Australia's NSW 2023 election requests.

I appreciate your interest and advocacy on these matters and recognise the important contribution of dietitians to the NSW healthcare system.

NSW Health continues to invest in prevention, including the design, development and implementation of population wide health programs and services. More than 5% of the NSW healthcare budget is spent on prevention. NSW Health's strong focus on prevention is also outlined in the *NSW Future Health Strategy*.

The obesity prevention work of the Centre for Population Health is directed by the *NSW Healthy Eating, Active Living Strategy 2022-32*, which is closely aligned with the *National Preventive Health Strategy 2021-2030* and the *National Obesity Strategy 2022-32*. The NSW Government is also preparing a response to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Food Production and Supply outcome report. This will include consideration of the recommendations for a food security plan and council.

I can advise that NSW Health provided clinical support to about 2,628 Home Enteral Nutrition (HEN) patients in 2021-22. The ACI has 315 clinicians participating in the HEN Nutrition Network. Dietitians Australia has a representative on the Executive of this group. This Network has produced clinical and consumer resources and is discussing ways to address HEN service variations in NSW. In addition to the provision of free clinical services, NSW Health provides subsidised equipment such as gastrostomy tubes and giving sets and syringes to eligible patients. Patients can also access specialised formula and equipment at NSW Government-negotiated tender pricing.

NSW Health recognises the need to increase the dietitian workforce in line with increasing demand. There are opportunities for local health districts to consider increasing the number of dietitians they employ, particularly in areas such as mental health, diabetes management, and child and family health and paediatric services. Local health districts regularly undertake health service and strategic planning to ensure health services are organised and delivered based on the community's current and future needs and preferences, and to make the most effective use of available resources to improve population outcomes.

Thank you again for writing and for your ongoing advocacy for healthy people and healthy communities. For more information, please contact Ms Meredith Claremont, Executive Director, Centre for Population Health at meredith.claremont@health.nsw.gov.au or on 9461 7195.

Yours sincerely

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