



15 May 2020

Dr Ruth Vine
Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Mental Health
Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr Vine,

Congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Chief Medical Officer for mental health.

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) welcomes prioritisation of mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic and ongoing commitment from the Australian Government to deliver mental health system reforms.

DAA has long advocated for recognition of the role of food and nutrition in supporting the mental and physical health of all Australians.

We refer to our recent advocacy work to support access to dietitians during the coronavirus pandemic through telehealth services.¹ Further, our submissions^{2,3} to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into mental health advocate for increased recognition of the role of food, nutrition and dietitian services in supporting the mental health of all Australians and better integration of physical and mental health care.

DAA would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you or your delegates, to ensure a comprehensive approach to mental health care for Australians during the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Hunt', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer

References

¹ Dietitians Association of Australia, *Media Releases*, Available from: <https://daa.asn.au/voice-of-daa/news-room/> [Accessed 14 May 2020]

² Dietitians Association of Australia, *The Social and Economic Benefits of Improving Mental Health*. Canberra; 2019.

³ Dietitians Association of Australia, *The Social and Economic Benefits of Improving Mental Health – DAA response to the Productivity Commission's Mental Health Draft Report*. Canberra; 2020.