

13 November 2020

The Hon Mark Furner
Minister for Rural Communities
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development
PO Box 48
BRISBANE QLD 4001

By email: agriculture@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister Furner

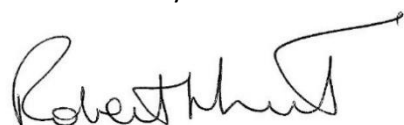
Congratulations on your re-election to the Queensland Parliament, re-appointment as Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and appointment as Minister for Rural Communities.

As the Palaszczuk Government starts work in its third term, it is essential that the role of dietitians, food and nutrition in health and quality of life for people in rural communities are considered. Dietitians Australia has long advocated for recognition of this. Our recent work includes:

- **Food security** – [Submission](#) in response to the Senate Inquiry into Food Pricing and Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities
- **Telehealth** – [Position paper](#) on the benefits of telehealth including access to dietetic services
- **Sustainability** – Briefing paper to support the prominent integration of sustainability principles within future iterations of the Australian Dietary Guidelines
- **Mental health** – [Submissions](#) to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into Mental Health, advocating 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
- **Aged care** – Representation of Dietitians Australia at a hearing at the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, which resulted from Dietitians Australia's formal [submission](#) to the Royal Commission
- **Disability** – [Submissions](#) to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

Dietitians Australia would welcome the opportunity to discuss further with you the role dietitians and nutrition play in health and wellbeing of people in rural communities.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer