

1 Feb 2022

The Hon. Michael Sukkar MP

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Dear Minister,

Re: Melanoma Patients Australia 2022-23 Pre-Budget Submission

On behalf of Melanoma Patients Australia (MPA), I am writing to provide you with a copy of MPA's 2022-2023 Pre-Budget Submission regarding a critical health priority for Australians which is intended to inform the 2022-23 Federal Budget.

MPA is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and representing all Australians affected by melanoma. We have been supporting Australians affected by melanoma since 2006 and are uniquely placed as Australia's premier melanoma support and advocacy organisation.

Currently, due to MPA's limited funding and resource capacity, the growing number of Australian patients and families facing a diagnosis of melanoma are not able to access the supportive care and cancer survivorship care services that they need and deserve. In Australia's advanced health care environment, the evolution, accessibility and success of best-practice melanoma treatments, especially immunotherapy, has meant that many more people are living longer with a diagnosis of melanoma.

We urgently need investment in enhancing MPA's currently unfunded National Melanoma Support Service and Telehealth Nurse Service, which are stretched beyond capacity, and also need a significant investment towards the establishment of a National Melanoma Nurse Service, to address the grave inequities that exist for patients needing melanoma specific nursing care in Australia.

As such, MPA is requesting consideration for inclusion of funding for the following melanoma support services, for delivery by MPA in 2022-23 and beyond, in the 2022-23 Federal Budget:

- 1) \$1.5 million per annum to further develop MPA's National Melanoma Telehealth Patient Support Service; and
- 2) \$55 million investment to develop a National Melanoma Nurse Service

I would welcome the opportunity to brief you and your advisors on this critical health issue for Australians.

Yours faithfully,



Victoria Beedle
Chief Executive Officer,
Melanoma Patients Australia