



The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health
PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACT 2600
Via email: greg.hunt.MP@aph.gov.au

14 November 2020

Dear Minister

Senate Estimates Hearings – 26 October 2020

I am writing on behalf of Harm Reduction Australia (HRA) in response to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee hearings held on Monday, 26 October 2020 at Federal Parliament

There were several issues raised in these hearings and HRA would very much appreciate your advice and clarification on some of these issues, specifically:

1. Of the \$6m allocated funding for alcohol and other drug services in response to COVID-19 why was no funding provided for any harm reduction services?
2. Given many of the services receiving additional funding already receive significant government funding to exclusively operate online, why were services that have face-to-face contact with people – harm reduction, outpatient, support, residential etc – not provided with any financial assistance to provide services online to their clients in response to COVID-19?
3. What process of consultation is undertaken to determine the greatest need and best value for the sector when funding decisions are made?
4. Why do people receiving treatment for opioid dependence continue to be discriminated against in relation to pharmaceutical co-payments and safety nets?

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gino Vumbaca', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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