

10th April 2008

The Honourable Nicola Roxon MP
Minister for Health and Aging
P.O. Box 6022
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Minister Roxon,

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS)

Please find enclosed copies of recent correspondence between ourselves and the former Minister for Health and Aging, The Honourable Tony Abbott MP. We understand the change of Government late last year will have caused unavoidable delay in addressing the issues raised and would be grateful if these matters could now receive your urgent attention.

The current plight and suffering of the more than 30,000 Australians severely affected by Myalgic Encephalomyelitis, also referred to under the umbrella term Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, is in large part unnecessary and avoidable. Excellent clinical guidelines compiled by a team of the world's leading ME/CFS experts under the auspices of Health Canada have been available since 2003. This is in contrast to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians CFS Guidelines which were published under a cloud of controversy in 2002 and which are now considered wholly unfit for purpose.

Timely introduction of the Canadian ME/CFS Guidelines or a modified and updated version of these here in Australia would at a stroke significantly improve the medical and social support available to those affected. We would therefore ask you to give this matter your careful consideration along with the research and support services proposals outlined in our previous correspondence. We have enclosed a further copy of the Canadian ME/CFS Guidelines Overview Document for your reference and convenience.

Our Patron, Dr Zeke Pervan, and I would greatly appreciate meeting with you to briefly discuss these urgently needed initiatives and to seek your advice on how best to proceed.

Yours Sincerely,

Colin Neathercoat
President, ME/CFS Society WA