

Date

Address 1
Address 2
Town & Postcode

Dear Minister (insert Minister's surname)

My name is _____; I am a member of your electorate in _____. I am also a person with type ___ diabetes which I have had since _____.

There are approximately 260,000 people with diabetes in New Zealand. Of these 10% have type 1 diabetes including approximately 2,000 children and young people.

Minister, type 2 diabetes in New Zealand is at epidemic proportions and yet we rank last out of 20 OECD countries for access to modern medicines.

If we had access to affordable modern-day medicines chronic complications from diabetes including kidney failure, nerve damage, amputation, retinopathy, heart attack and stroke would be significantly reduced.

People with type 1 diabetes are usually diagnosed at a young age, which means that the long-term complications of diabetes occur when they are much younger. Type 1s without access to modern day technology must prick their fingers multiple times a day to test their blood glucose levels. Fingers get sore and this is a barrier to good management of diabetes.

With access to modern day technology long-term complications can be prevented. Continuous Blood Glucose Monitors (CGMs) and Flash Glucose Monitors (FGMs) would be life changing for the thousands of New Zealanders who are insulin dependent.

Minister, It is estimated that with the slow adoption of modern diabetes medicines 800 New Zealanders are dying annually which is unacceptable.

I am asking you to show your support for Diabetes New Zealand's petition to the health select committee that asks "That the House of Representatives urge Pharmac to fund Continuous Glucose Monitors (CGM), GLP1 agonists including Bydureon, Byetta, Lyxumia, and Victoza, SGLT2 inhibitors including Forxiga and Jardiance, and DPP-4 inhibitors including Januvia, Onglyza, and Trajenta".

Please don't let this opportunity pass by.

Yours sincerely

Name