

Date:

MP name:

MP address:

Dear Member of Parliament,

As a resident in your electorate, I am seeking your support for the recommendations in Macular Disease Foundation Australia's Federal Election Agenda, *Fight for Sight*.

About macular disease

- Macular disease is the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia.
- There are over 1.9 million Australians with some evidence of macular disease. Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the most common form of macular disease and the leading cause of blindness and irreversible vision loss among older Australians. There are an estimated 1.5 million Australians living with some evidence of AMD.
- Macular disease results in the progressive loss of central vision which affects the ability to recognise faces, read, drive, work and many other aspects of daily living.
- The current treatment for neovascular AMD is regular eye injections, with most treatment provided in private ophthalmology clinics with significant out-of-pocket costs. The median total cost of living for people with macular disease and receiving eye injection treatment is \$3,621 a year.
- Economic modelling commissioned by Macular Disease Foundation found that government investment in more affordable and accessible treatment could, over the next decade, help 22,000 more people persist with their treatment, preventing severe vision loss and blindness, whilst saving the government more than \$2 billion, and reducing the financial impact on people with macular disease by more than \$1 billion.

Macular Disease Foundation's recommendations

Macular Disease Foundation Australia is seeking your support to make the preservation of sight a national priority.

We ask that you support the macular disease community, by seeking commitments from a re-elected or new Australian Government to:

1. Provide financial relief to lower the out-of-pocket costs for people receiving eye injection treatment through the introduction of a *Neovascular AMD Treatment Incentive Program*.
2. Establish national access to, and stronger government oversight of, public treatment of macular disease in all states and territories.
3. Invest in public-private partnerships to increase access to affordable eye injection treatment.
4. Fund Macular Disease Foundation to deliver continuing professional development for health professionals working with people living with macular disease.

5. Fund Macular Disease Foundation to support its *Eye Connect* service delivery to improve outcomes for people living with macular disease.

These recommendations are outlined in more detail in Macular Disease Foundation's Federal Election Agenda, *Fight for Sight*, which can be found on Macular Disease Foundation's website at www.mdfoundation.com.au

As my Member of Parliament, I hope you will support Macular Disease Foundation's recommendations as they will save the sight of more Australians and have a positive impact upon Government expenditure.

Yours faithfully,

Signature:

Full name: