

THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



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BY:

Mr Michael Thorn
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Dear Mr Thorn

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing you and your fellow members of the Prevention 1st campaign. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your survey.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

COALITION RESPONSE TO PREVENTION 1ST

A re-elected Coalition Government will continue to invest in preventative health activities targeted at the specific needs of the population.

Under the Coalition, work is progressing on the National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions which will supersede the National Chronic Disease Strategy 2005. This national framework will recognise links between National and State-based chronic condition strategies and consider how best to deliver co-ordinated, integrated and multidisciplinary care.

Obesity and being overweight are risk factors for many chronic conditions. The Coalition Government recognises the importance of developing healthy habits early in life.

For this reason, we invested \$360 million directly into Australian national sporting organisations and athletes from 2013-14 to 2015-16 and provided \$100 million for the Sporting Schools Programme. This delivers sports before, during and after school to more than 850,000 children across more than 5,000 primary schools and provides opportunities for school children to participate regularly in sport-based physical activity and to help them develop good habits that underpin lifelong physical fitness.

The Coalition developed the *#girlsmakeyourmove* campaign to encourage participation in physical activity among young women and girls aged 12–19 years. This campaign promotes physical activity and sport as fun, empowering and providing many positive benefits.

In the last three years, the National Health and Medical Research Council has committed over \$11 million to research into the benefits of physical activity.

The Coalition Government continued funding for the Good Sports Programme in the 2014-15 Budget, committing \$19 million over four years. The measure reaches around 1.7 million Australians and 7,000 community sporting clubs across 60 sports with its alcohol management programme.

The Sporting Schools Programme, launched by the Coalition in 2014, is designed to help schools increase children's participation in sport and to connect children with community based sport. The 2014-15 Budget provided \$100.3 million committed over three years for schools to run activities across 32 major sports throughout the school year.

A re-elected Coalition Government will invest an additional \$60 million to extend the programme, bringing the Coalition's total investment to \$160 million. The new funding is expected to extend the reach of the programme to three million people. More than 850,000 primary school children take part in the programme across more than 5,000 schools.

We will also seek to extend the current programme to secondary schools for years 7 and 8 students to combat the significant drop out in physical activity at this age.

Leveraging off the Sporting Schools Programme, the Minister for Sport will also seek to work actively with State and Territory Ministers (in sport and health) to raise the profile of, and role for, sport and physical education in schools.

Healthier Medicare

The Coalition is committed to ensuring that health services are well integrated, efficient and better delivered.

In Government, we have strategically and methodically undertaken fundamental reform of the various interdependent components of our health system. These changes will not only improve the services delivered but will improve the connectedness of the whole health system.

The Coalition Government has:

- delivered major structural reforms in primary, aged and mental healthcare and chronic disease management;
- undertaken reviews of the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS);
- changed the Government's role in digital health, fostering market innovation and consumer decision making; and
- improved the value and affordability of private health.

The Coalition has announced changes to primary health care which are amongst the most significant reforms to Medicare since it was introduced.

Under the innovative Health Care Homes model of chronic care, the Coalition is putting patients with chronic and complex illnesses at the centre of care. GPs are being given the flexibility to work together with patients to co-ordinate and plan their care to try and keep them at home and out of hospital.

Patients will have tailored care plans and their care will be co-ordinated to make it easier to navigate the system. The Coalition will conduct trials for about 65,000 Australians in up to 200 medical practices from 1 July 2017.

The Coalition is delivering better healthcare tailored to the needs of their local community through the creation of Primary Health Networks (PHNs) which work directly with GPs, other primary healthcare providers, secondary care providers, hospitals and the broader community to ensure improved outcomes for patients. PHNs are outcome-focused on improving frontline services, and generally align with state Local Hospital Networks to ensure better integration between primary and acute care services.

The Coalition is also working with States and Territories to take shared action to reduce demand for hospital services through better co-ordinated care for people with chronic and complex conditions.

The Coalition is delivering integrated care to Australians with mental health issues thanks to a once-in-a-generation national reform that will see greater focus on personalised care. The Coalition's reforms take a 'whole-of-system' perspective, where Commonwealth-funded services will complement rather than duplicate State and Territory mental healthcare services.

With PHNs playing a key role, these reforms will facilitate co-investment by States and Territories and other key community, academic and private partners in regionalised service development and

There are currently over 40,000 private health insurance products on the market and consumers are rightly frustrated. Making it easier for consumers to shop around will increase competition in the private health sector and, in turn, improve value for money and affordability for consumers.

Around 12 million Australians have private health insurance – that's half the population.

Unlike Labor and the Greens, the Coalition understands that hard-working Australians that want action to improve value for money from their policies, not further cuts to their rebate as we have seen from Bill Shorten. Labor's cut to the private health insurance rebate now total \$7 billion without any reform to match. This includes cutting support for families on incomes under \$100,000 – the very people Bill Shorten claimed needed to be protected.

A strong private health insurance system is a fundamental element of our health system that offers consumers greater choice over their care whilst taking pressure off Medicare and public hospitals so that their universality remains sustainable.

Private health rebates should not be treated like a golden goose for Labor governments desperate for cash. The Coalition was the party who introduced the private health insurance rebate and only the Coalition can be trusted to protect it.