

28 January 2021

Hon Mark Butler MP  
Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**By email: [Mark.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Butler.MP@aph.gov.au)**

Dear Shadow Minister Butler

I am glad to hear of your appointment as Shadow Minister for Health and Ageing in today's reshuffle. With your experience as Minister for Health and Ageing, and numerous parliamentary secretary and committee roles in health and mental health, I am confident you will serve the nation well.

As we head into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, health and wellbeing is at the forefront of the nation's consciousness. This year as we adjust and move forward, and into a likely election year, it is essential that the role of dietitians, food and nutrition in health and quality of life are considered.

Dietitians Australia has long advocated for recognition of this. Our recent work includes:

- **Telehealth** – [Position paper](#) on the benefits of telehealth including access to dietetic services
- **Aged care** – Series of [8 position statements](#) on the role of food and nutrition in aged care, presented at the National Congress on food, nutrition and the dining experience in aged care
- **Mental health** – [Briefing paper](#) on the role of food and nutrition in mental health
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health** – [Submission](#) in response to the Senate Inquiry into Food Pricing and Food Security in Remote Indigenous Communities
- **Disability** – [Briefing paper](#) on the provision of food and nutrition for people with disability
- **Sustainability** – [Briefing paper](#) to support the prominent integration of sustainability principles within future iterations of the Australian Dietary Guidelines

I would like to meet with you to discuss the role dietitians and nutrition play in health and wellbeing and offer any assistance to you and your colleagues as the alternative government.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt  
Chief Executive Officer