

28 January 2021

Ms Clare O'Neil MP
Shadow Minister for Health
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: Clare.ONeil.MP@aph.gov.au

Dear Shadow Minister O'Neil

I am glad to hear of your appointment as Shadow Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care Services in today's reshuffle. With your experience as across portfolios in the Shadow Cabinet, I am confident you will serve the nation well.

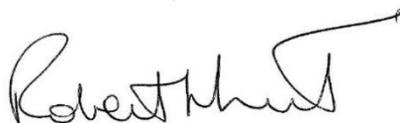
As we head into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, health and wellbeing is at the forefront of the nation's consciousness. This year as we adjust and move forward, and into a likely election year, it is essential that the role of dietitians, food and nutrition in health and quality of life for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

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

- **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
- **Telehealth** – [Position paper](#) on the benefits of telehealth including access to dietetic services
- **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 the health and wellbeing of older adults, and offer any assistance to you and your colleagues as the alternative government.

Yours sincerely



Robert Hunt
Chief Executive Officer