



HON EMILY BOURKE MLC

Hon. Chris Picton MP
Minister for Health and Wellbeing
GPO Box 2555
ADELAIDE SA 5001

By email only: MinisterforHealth@sa.gov.au


Dear Minister

I write on behalf of constituents who are affected by ME/CFS (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome).

I am advised that an estimated 500,000 Australians have ME/CFS, including those whose ME/CFS was triggered by COVID-19, with the peak ages of onset being 10-19 and 30-39.

As you would be aware, the hallmark feature of the illness is post-exertional malaise (PEM), in which symptoms are exacerbated by physical or cognitive effort. For people with ME/CFS, even basic activities of daily living such as toileting, bathing, dressing, talking, and reading can trigger PEM. This means that physical attendance at a doctor's appointment is extremely difficult.

I understand that to meet eligibility requirements for telehealth, patients must attend one face-to-face consultation per year. Members of the ME/CFS community have said that this is impossible for many with the condition, particularly those without family support, and so they simply miss out on receiving the care that they need.

While I have also written to the federal Minister for Health, as the Minister responsible for telehealth, I'm also bringing this matter to your attention for consideration.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.



Yours sincerely



Hon Emily Bourke MLC
Assistant Minister to the Premier
Assistant Minister for Autism

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Hon Emily Bourke MLC

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