



UR THE CURE

Education – Awareness – More lifesaving matches

20 January 2022

The Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Health

By email: minister.health@health.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister Foley,

RE: Review of the HPC Sector Final Report and funding for the Strength to Give Cheek Swab Program (Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry - ABMDR)

We have written numerous times in the past regarding funding for the Strength to Give Cheek swab program and the need to improve Australia's blood stem cell donor pool.

The recently published final report of the HPC Sector review and the National HPC Framework outlines the problems caused by our dependence on overseas stem cell donors and that improving the donor pool is a priority. The framework however does not provide a solution or a commitment to increasing donor recruitment.

The Strength to Give cheek swab program has proved to be a success in improving the donor pool, and I am aware of several reports provided to your government with the evidence and findings of this success and the financial viability of the program. Further, it is evident from ABMDR's public financial reports that they hold sufficient funds to implement a 5 year recruitment program immediately, but cannot commence until each State provides approval. The facts seem black and white that this is the only way forward for Australia.

If Strength to Give cheek swab testing is not the solution, then what does your government propose the solution to be? And in what timeframes can the solution be implemented? It took 4 years for the Review of the HPC Sector Final report to be published to identify the problem, Australians cannot wait any longer whilst the government contemplates a solution. Too many lives are being lost while the Commonwealth and States fail to reach a collective decision.

Strength to Give seems like the obvious solution, it can be turned on almost instantly and rolled out efficiently and effectively.

What are your government's hesitations in moving forward with the Strength to Give model?

As a partner of the ABMDR and Strength to Give, UR the Cure cannot function as charity without cheek swabs for various reasons. We have the ability to recruit on behalf of the ABMDR at no additional costs to the government, we are financially self-sufficient and can help improve the donor pool, but we simply cannot do the work without cheek swab testing.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela Bousejean', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Pamela Bousejean (UR the Cure Founder)



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