



Australian Government

Department of Health

Ref No: MC20-033766

Mr Bob Buckley

Email: convenor@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 August 2020 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, regarding mental health support for autistic Australians. The Minister has asked me to reply.

The Australian Government recognises the difficulties faced by Australians with autism and is committed to developing a more effective system that supports the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians, including those with autism.

During this unprecedented and unfolding environment, the mental health of Australians remains a high priority for the Australian Government. As part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has announced a number of packages to support the mental health and wellbeing of Australians. These measures will help to ensure Australians, including vulnerable population groups, can access the essential support and services they need during this difficult time. Details of supports are available on the Department of Health's website at www.health.gov.au/resources.

Thank you for your continued work in convening Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia and for advocating the needs of autistic people and their families to government. I will share and discuss your concerns regarding the needs of autistic Australians with relevant colleagues across the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services as part of informing any future policy considerations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Claremont".

Rebecca Claremont
Acting Assistant Secretary
Mental Health Services and Evidence Branch

28 September 2020