



Australian Government
Department of Health

Ref No: MC20-042281

Mr Bob Buckley
Convenor
Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia
27 Fairbridge Crescent
AINSLIE ACT 2602

Email: convenor@a4.org.au

Dear Mr Buckley

I refer to your correspondence of 1 November 2020 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP and the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, concerning mental health support for autistic Australians. The Minister has asked me to reply.

The mental health and wellbeing of all Australians remains one of the Australian Government's highest priorities, with estimated health portfolio expenditure for mental health services and suicide prevention in 2020-21 of \$5.7 billion.

The Australian Government is developing a Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan (10 Year Plan) to make the primary health care system more integrated, accessible and equitable for all Australians.

Informing the 10 Year Plan are extensive consultations with patients, providers, experts and the community. The Department recently held a consultation on the primary health care needs of people with disability, which featured experts including people with lived experience, disability organisations, the research sector, and Commonwealth and state and territory government officials. Outcomes from this consultation will be considered in the development of the 10 Year Plan.

The National roadmap for improving the health of Australians with intellectual disability will be implemented as part of the 10 Year Plan. The Roadmap is underpinned by an inclusive approach so it can meet the needs of all people with intellectual disability including those who have autism.

The Roadmap aims to enable better care coordination and integration within the health system to better meet the mental health needs of people with intellectual disability.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bedford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Chris Bedford
Assistant Secretary
Mental Health Division

23 December 2020