

# PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION

## Diabetes Australia

Diabetes Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we live and work. We recognise their connection to land, waters and culture. We pay the utmost respect to them, their cultures and to their Elders past and present. We recognise that Australia is made up of hundreds of different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, each with their own culture, language and belief systems. Their relationship with country remains of utmost importance as it is the foundation for culture, family and kinships, song lines and languages.

# Equitable access to Diabetes Technology

## Who we are

Diabetes Australia is dedicated to reducing the incidence and impact of diabetes on people, health systems and society. As the national peak body, we work with people living with or, at risk of diabetes, their families and carers, health professionals, researchers, funders, other diabetes organisations and the community to positively change people's lives.

## Investing in access to diabetes technologies

**\$200 million over 4 years to expand access to diabetes technologies**

Technology such as continuous glucose monitoring devices and insulin pumps improve quality of life and health outcomes for people living with diabetes. Technology also reduces the burden on the health system by preventing complications. This was highlighted in the recent Parliamentary Inquiry into diabetes and its report, *The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024*.

Insulin pump therapy, when linked to glucose sensors, can reduce the frequency of severe hypoglycaemia, enable better blood glucose management to reduce the risk of complications, and reduce costs associated with ambulance use,

emergency department presentations and hospital admissions.

Continuous glucose monitoring devices provide users with more accurate and frequent data about blood glucose levels, without regular finger pricks and support more informed decisions about diabetes management.

In *The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024* the Parliamentary Committee unanimously supported expanding access to continuous glucose monitoring devices for people in particular priority groups and also supported expanding subsidised access to insulin pumps for all Australians with type 1 diabetes.

The [Position Statement - Equitable Access to Diabetes Technology](#) was prepared by Diabetes Australia following extensive consultation with people living with diabetes, health professionals, technology companies and other diabetes stakeholders. The Position Statement is supported by the Australian Diabetes Society, the Australian Diabetes Educators Association, and JDRF Australia.

The Position Statement calls for an investment by the Federal Government of \$200 million over four years to expand subsidies for insulin pumps for people living with type 1 diabetes and continuous glucose monitoring devices for people living with type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes Australia has estimated that expanding subsidies for continuous glucose monitors will create access to that technology for approximately 22,000 people living with type 2 diabetes, and expanding subsidies for insulin pumps will increase access to a further 16,000 people living with type 1 diabetes.

People living with diabetes are struggling with the rising cost of living. Our recent report [Counting the Cost of Living with Diabetes](#) provides an outline of the complicated intersection between everyday costs and diabetes management. People should not have to decide between good health care and putting food on the table.

Diabetes Australia's proposal will provide welcome relief to many people who are living with this chronic health condition, will help them better manage their diabetes, will reduce complications, and in the long term reduce the impact on our hospital and health systems.