

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

Dear Committee,

**Inquiry into Diabetes – cystic fibrosis-related diabetes**

Cystic Fibrosis Australia (CFA) warmly welcomes this Inquiry into Diabetes. Up to a third of people living with cystic fibrosis suffer from diabetes, and require insulin. However, this is a group of diabetes sufferers who are overlooked because their cause of diabetes is cystic fibrosis-related, even though the burden of care and treatment requirements is usually the same as someone living with Type 1 diabetes.

**Please include the impact of people with cystic fibrosis-related diabetes in this inquiry.**

The Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) subsidy must be expanded to include people with cystic fibrosis-related diabetes. When this subsidy was originally introduced it was only for people with Type 1 diabetes. However, it is evident that the care and treatment for someone living with cystic fibrosis-related diabetes aligns with Type 1 diabetes yet there are many people living with cystic fibrosis who do not have a disability support card or health care card and subsequently are forced to pay \$102 a fortnight because of their diabetes. This is an annual cost of \$2652 which is a real struggle for many people in our community. This is an additional expense for people who are chronically ill and it is unjust that they should have this expense when others do not. This is not fair. This needs to change and be equitable.

One person in our community described this added expense for the Freestyle Libre as,

*“A killer, especially with all the other cystic fibrosis-related expenses we have.”*

There are more than 3600 Australians living with cystic fibrosis and every four days a baby is born with cystic fibrosis, which is a genetic condition that does not have a cure. While there has been some good progress with increased access to medicine, there is still a long way to go. Indeed, there are many people with cystic fibrosis who are still suffering, including from diabetes and this is a great opportunity for change to help alleviate some of the financial burden as they receive the care and support they need.

Thank you for your consideration of the cystic fibrosis community as you work through this inquiry.

Warm regards,



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