

22/8/2023

House Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care, and Sport  
Diabetes Inquiry and Report Submission

Dear House Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care, and Sport:

I would like to make a positive submission for the support that has been offered through the subsidization of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) machines for Type 1 Diabetics since 2022, point 5 on the Terms of reference for the above inquiry.

I have had Diabetes since I was 14 months of age and I am now 44. I have been the recipient of many subsidized programs and supplements aimed at making the management of my disease less financially burdensome during my life and I am sincerely grateful for all assistance that has been provided up until this date.

Several years ago it was suggested to me by my Endocrinologist that a CGM machine would assist in maintaining better glucose control, however I was unable to afford the ongoing costs of the testing components of the system. I continued managing my glucose testing by pricking my fingers multiple times each day, as I had done for the previous 40 odd years.

Unfortunately, I have recently been informed that I am now testing positive for insulin resistance, which combined with my Type 1 diagnosis makes managing my glucose levels quite difficult. At about the same time my Specialist informed me that the government was looking to subsidize the CGM machines, and it was vital that I was able to obtain this form of continuous testing to ensure my ongoing health.

I have been using the CGM system and subsidy for a little over 6 months, my HBA1 levels are now within a band of 6 to 6.6 mmol which is incredible, and I place all the success and praise for this outcome on the CGM system and subsidy that enables such immediate and minute levels of control a possibility for me.

I hope that this subsidy will continue for both myself and for all other recipients of the support well into the future, as every extra day we can spend with optimal glucose control spares us a day in the hospital system occupying beds for secondary complications of our chronic disease.

Many thanks