



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Mr Phil Johnston
5 Ronald Ave
THE FRESHWATER NSW 2466

Dear Mr Johnston

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2008 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, concerning your three preventative health business plans. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

As you noted in your letter, the Preventative Health Taskforce will develop the National Preventative Health Strategy as a blueprint for tackling the burden of chronic disease currently caused by obesity, tobacco and excessive consumption of alcohol.

In developing the Strategy, the Taskforce is consulting widely with experts from across the health care sector and the broader community. It will release a discussion paper in September 2008 that will set out a framework for the Strategy and key issues. A draft of the Strategy will then be released for comment in March 2009 before finalisation of the Strategy in June 2009.

The Taskforce is considering on merit all proposals for improving Australia's preventative health performance, including the prevention of obesity, tobacco use, and excessive alcohol consumption. Accordingly, your proposal has been brought to the attention of the Taskforce.

If you would like to provide further input to the Taskforce deliberations, you could visit the Taskforce website at www.preventativehealth.org.au for notification of consultation processes over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Morris'.

Mr Peter Morris
Assistant Secretary
Population Health Strategy Unit
Department of Health and Ageing

29 July 2008