

[Insert Date]

[Insert Your Address]

[Insert MP Name, Title, Address]

Dear [Insert MP Name],

As one of your constituents, I would like to draw your attention to the status of Melanoma and Skin Cancer within Australia. I have been personally effected by a skin cancer diagnosis as a [patient/carer of a patient/family member or friend of a patient/health clinician].

[Insert your personal story including details of patient, initial symptoms and diagnosis, treatment, results, prognosis. Describe any challenges or issues faced throughout the journey.]

While this is my personal experience, thousands of Australians are facing their own journey after a diagnosis of Melanoma or Skin Cancer every year.

Approximately, **two in three Australians** will be diagnosed with a form of skin cancer (including melanoma) by the time they are 70. In 2016, 1960 people died from skin cancer in Australia, 1281 from melanoma and 679 from non-melanoma skin cancers.

Excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (as they are not notified/included in cancer registries), **melanoma is the third most common cancer** in Australians. In 2015, 13,694 Australians were diagnosed with melanoma.

Every year, in Australia:

- Skin cancers account for around 80% of all newly diagnosed cancers
- 95% of skin cancers are caused by exposure to the sun
- GPs have over 1 million patient consultations per year for skin cancer
- The incidence of skin cancer is one of the highest in the world, two to three times the rates in Canada, the US and the UK.

More must be done in supporting research in the areas of screening, treatment and patient support.

I would be happy to discuss these issues with you in more detail. Please feel free to contact me on [insert email address or phone number].

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert Full Name]