Your Name

Address Line 1

City State Post Code

Email address

MP Name

Title

Address/email

Day Month Year

Dear INSERT MP NAME,

My name is X and I am one of your constituents. I am a carer to a Neuroendocrine cancer patient/ a Neuroendocrine cancer patient/a concerned citizen whose life has been touched by Neuroendocrine cancer.

*Insert personal story: Full Name, age, suburb of person affected. Name of cancer they were diagnosed with and when. List first signs and symptoms. The journey to diagnosis. Treatments received. Results of tests. Current situation, the challenges and expected outcome.*

I’ve been touched by a less common cancer, but my story is common. This year over 5,200 Australians will be diagnosed with Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETs), or 1 every 2 hours. This makes NETs the 7th most diagnosed cancer in Australia, and I bet before today you have never heard of it. 70% more Australians are diagnosed with NETs than with Ovarian Cancer, yet we have extremely low awareness, and receive no government funding for support services. NETs affect men and women equally from children to the elderly. Sadly, it takes on average 5-7 years for a correct diagnosis to be made, due to healthcare professionals lack of knowledge of symptoms. This results in over 60% of Australians having stage 4 cancer at diagnosis.

Whilst commonly found in the gastro-intestinal tract and lungs, they can develop anywhere throughout the body as they are the result of mutations in neuroendocrine cells, these cells regulate the balance of the body through hormones.

I believe that cancer is cancer, and NETs should not be discriminated against and should receive equal access to support services, treatments and research. A resource which has a large impact on the care and wellbeing, is the lack of NET Nurses. NeuroEndocrine Cancer Australia (NECA) has 1 NET Nurse to provide support for over 24,000 people currently living with NETs in Australia. NECA, despite meeting with many MPs, continues to be declined for funding of this resource. In the past Federal Government has provided funding for Cancer Nurse Programs:

* $82.2 million (ex GST) to the McGrath Foundation
* $41.2 million (ex GST) to PCFA
* $14.8 million (ex GST) to National Melanoma Service
* $4.8 million (ex GST) to Ovarian Cancer Australia
* $900,000 (ex GST) to Lung Foundation Australia

Recent times, we have seen more pledges made by governments for funding of breast care nurses. Where is the pledge for funding for nurses for NET patients?

I support NECA National Action Plan asking for:

* Federal Government Support for 5 Specialist Telehealth NET nurses to respond to the more than 180 calls for help a month. Currently NECA relies on donated funds to support only one nurse. We patients are fundraising for support of ourselves.
* Funding for much needed patient information and resources
* More education of healthcare professionals and promotion of NECA’s RACGP accredited education modules
* A national public awareness campaign about NETs and their symptoms
* Targeted funding for research and the national neuroendocrine tumour registry

It is time that NET patients are granted hope and better outcomes and improve their current low survival of 51% at 5-years. Please, put NETs on your agenda and support the work of NeuroEndocrine Cancer Australia. [www.neuroendocrine.org.au](http://www.neuroendocrine.org.au)

I would be delighted if I might be able to meet with you in your electorate office to talk about some of the challenges Australian Neuroendocrine Cancer patients face.

I look forward to your reply, with much anticipation

Yours sincerely,

SIGN

NAME IN FULL

CONTACT DETAILS FOR REPLY