



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Dr Gary Lum, AM BMedSc, MBBS, FRCPA, FACTM  
Principal Medical Adviser  
Office of Health Protection

Ms Jeannette Radcliffe  
Committee Secretary  
Australian Senate, Community Affairs References Committee  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Radcliffe

**Adverse comment letter and response to submission from Ms Janice Foster**

Thank you for the adverse comment letter (2016-11-23) and the relevant submission written by Ms Janice Foster. I acknowledge that I have been named frequently in the document. I do not intend to respond to any specific comment made by Ms Foster about me. My general response to this submission is that I appreciate that Ms Foster is a member of an affected community and she is a patient herself who has experienced chronic debilitating symptoms. I am conscious that this inquiry has afforded many patients, their families, their friends and their carers an opportunity to express their experience and feelings as well as their thoughts on how they would like to see their future. I continue to have a concern for the patients, their families and supporters and will continue to undertake my duties as an official in the Australian Government Department of Health to the best of my ability.

I am happy for this response to be made public and published at the same time as Ms Foster's submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Lum', with a period at the end.

Gary Lum, AM  
Thursday, 24 November 2016