

11 March 2011

Mr Andrew McGowan
Inquiry Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Infrastructure and Communications
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: ic.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr McGowan,

Thank you for your letter of 7 March confirming the opportunity for me to present to the Inquiry during their visit to Brisbane on 28 March 2011. This letter describes the main issues that we would like to present to the Inquiry during their visit.

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national non-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of people affected by leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders. Our organisation provides a suite of support services including, information, education programs, emotional support, and referral to expert services, accommodation, transport, and practical assistance including financial assistance. In addition, through our National Research Program, we fund talented researchers with the best ideas to improve blood cancer treatment and to develop novel approaches to improve our understanding of these cancers and with a long term view of finding new cures.

1. **Meeting future and changing health service needs** – Big changes are occurring in Australia's demographics in parallel with changes in medical services and delivery, medical education and health consumer aspirations. A NBN provides the best means of meeting these challenges by providing high quality, accessible and affordable infrastructure to receive and deliver all aspects of a good quality health system.
2. **High quality and reliable NBN service that allows high speed transmission** - For health services to be efficient and accessible, and for the country to realise the benefits of the growing suite of e-health technologies and services, Australia needs a high quality, rapid transmission infrastructure like the proposed NBN that will be accessible to as many people as possible at an affordable rate.

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3. **Consumer Voice** - There is an unrealised need for all major stakeholder groups to have equal voice in the development of this project – government, health service providers, ICT industry and health consumers. Health consumers are often forgotten and left out of the process. To ensure that we maximise the benefits, health consumers need to be at the table too from the day one.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Anna Williamson
General Manager Policy and Advocacy