



**The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research**



The Hon John Murphy MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Murphy

Thank you for your letter of 27 May 2013 (ref. 771/1227) inviting my response to a submission to the Standing Committee on Petitions regarding the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of ipilimumab for the treatment of metastatic melanoma.

The Australian Government recognises that metastatic melanoma has a significant impact on the Australian community and is committed to improving outcomes for people affected by this disease and their families.

I am pleased to advise that, on 30 June 2013, I announced that the Government had approved the listing of ipilimumab (under the brand name Yervoy®) on the PBS for the treatment of metastatic melanoma. This listing, at a cost over \$380 million over four years, is expected to occur on 1 August 2013, subject to listing conditions being met.

Australia has the highest skin cancer incidence rate in the world, with one in 17 Australians at risk of contracting the disease. While prevention is always the best option, the PBS listing of ipilimumab is a major step forward for people who have developed malignant melanoma.

Once again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Plibersek

14.7.13