

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIS PETITION: FROM CONCERNED CITIZENS OF AUSTRALIA

DRAWS TO THE ATTENTION OF THE HOUSE: THE DRUG IPILIMUMAB WHICH IS A PROVEN TREATMENT FOR METASTATIC MELANOMA AND IS APPROVED FOR USE IN THE USA, CANADA, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND AUSTRALIA (SINCE JULY 2011). ITS COST, HOWEVER, IS BEYOND THE REACH OF ALL BUT THE WEALTHIEST AUSTRALIANS.

THE DELAY IN LISTING IPILIMUMAB ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME IS CONDEMNING NUMEROUS SUFFERERS FROM MELANOMA WHO HAVE FAILED TO RESPOND TO SURGERY, RADIOTHERAPY AND CHEMOTHERAPY TO AN EARLY DEATH.

WE THEREFORE ASK THE HOUSE TO LIST IPILIMUMAB ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME IMMEDIATELY, AS A MATTER OF LIFE-SAVING URGENCY FOR MANY AUSTRALIANS.