



Mr Elton Humphrey  
Secretary  
Senate Community Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600

Wednesday, 7 February 2007

Dear Mr Humphrey,

MND Australia has made a submission to the Inquiry into Private Health Insurance Bill 2006 [provisions] and related Bills and appeared as a witness at the Senate Committee Public Hearing on Friday 2 February 2007. Since then MND Australia has read the Guide to the Private Health Insurance Rules and would like to comment specifically on draft rule10.

**Rule 10:**

(2) **Chronic disease definitions** - we recommend that the list include Neurological Diseases and Conditions

(2) **Chronic disease management programs**

(a) Definition of programs - include programs intended to assist people to live better with their disease and manage symptoms when improvement or cure is not possible

(c) A better definition of the person eligible to coordinate these programs is recommended – the programs should be coordinated by expert care coordinators already part of the treatment plan and who have knowledge of, experience and expertise in the individual disease.

MND Australia also recommends that where possible the rules specify products that are relevant to people with MND and other progressive neurological or terminal conditions highlighted in our submission including case coordination and case management; responsive home delivered therapy (allied health and palliative care) services and personal care. It is pleasing to note that Rule 13 (1) (e) specifies that equipment or appliances are relevant services which should be funded and MND Australia hopes that this will include respiratory and nutritional interventions.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft rules and hope that the proposed changes to the range of products available from private health insurers will benefit people living with MND and other neurological or terminal conditions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or if you would like us to appear at future public hearings related to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,  
Carol Birks  
National Executive Director

**Motor Neurone Disease Association of Australia Inc.**

Locked Bag 5005, Gladesville NSW 1675 Australia  
Tel: +61 (0)2 9816 5322 Fax: +61 (0)2 9816 2077  
info@mndaust.asn.au www.mndaust.asn.au  
ABN 52 650 269 176