

# THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

# CCHQ 2016



30 June 2016

Mr Bill Petch  
CEO  
The Leukaemia Foundation  
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Dear Mr Petch

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your questionnaire.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future. We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science programme bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created.

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future

Once announced, our policies will be available at [www.liberal.org.au](http://www.liberal.org.au) and [www.nationals.org.au](http://www.nationals.org.au).

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Nutt', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Tony Nutt  
National Campaign Director

## COALITION RESPONSE TO THE LEUKAEMIA FOUNDATION

The Turnbull Coalition Team recognises the impact that Leukaemia has on Australians and their families and supports the assistance that The Leukaemia Foundation gives to leukaemia patients.

### **Continuation of reforms to TGA and PBS to improve access to new medicines for Australians with blood cancers**

The Coalition will bring life-saving medicines and medical devices, such as the latest cancer drugs and state-of-the-art medical technology onto the market faster, with reforms to the Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA).

These reforms were funded in the 2016-17 Budget and were the result of a comprehensive review aimed at streamlining inefficient processes and regulations.

The changes will increase competition and innovation in the Australian medicines and medical devices market, and are estimated to reduce the regulatory burden on industry by around \$75 million a year through removing unnecessary duplication and cutting red tape.

### **Commitment to the complete implementation of the Clinical Trials Action Group recommendations as soon as possible**

Clinical trials make a positive contribution to our health and to our economy, with up to 1,000 new clinical trials adding around \$1 billion in new investment each year.

During the election campaign, the Turnbull Coalition Team has announced a further \$7 million investment to improve the clinical trial landscape.

A re-elected Turnbull Government will undertake to improve access to clinical trials for all Australians by:

- instituting a national approach that will cut cross-border red tape threatening large-scale trials;
- embedding dedicated clinical trial specialists in key hospital and research networks to ensure trials are run efficiently and to the highest quality standards; and
- making it easier for patients and researchers to match up with each other via mobile, smart-technology platforms.

A re-elected Turnbull Government will act to remove barriers to adolescents and young adult cancer patients accessing clinical trials for anti-cancer therapies:

- the Coalition will work with pharmaceutical companies and hospitals to remove current age restrictions on trials which can sometimes apply in children's or adult hospitals to increase access for adolescents and young adults;

- we will also support demonstration trials to show the world that Australia has the ability to successfully run world-class trials for adolescents and young adult patients, and will help to attract industry partnerships in future trials;
- using existing cancer networks, the Coalition will focus on identifying and recruiting eligible patients in this age group with rare and highly lethal cancers; and
- streamlining the recruitment process will make it easier and faster for industry to commence trials for rare cancers in this age group, making Australia a more attractive destination to conduct world-leading trials.

Our commitment will ensure hundreds of adolescents and young adult cancer patients will have immediate access to advanced anti-cancer treatments and embed clinical trials processes into standard adolescents and young adult care, bringing more clinical trials and more investment to Australia.

The Coalition will also invest \$20 million to help establish a national research collaboration called the Zero Childhood Cancer Initiative. This will help provide personalised treatment for children with high risk cancers through innovative research collaboration. The network will give every child diagnosed with cancer access to the best therapy, tailored to their specific disease and individual genetic characteristics.

#### **Accelerating the development of a national e-clinical quality registry for blood cancers**

The Coalition has worked with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to develop the Framework for Australian Clinical Quality Registries (the Framework) in collaboration with the States and Territories and expert registry groups. The Framework, endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council in March 2014, sets out national arrangements for clinical quality registries.

This Framework will help to assure jurisdictions, private hospital groups, clinicians and patients, that registry data and the systems that hold the data have satisfied minimum security, technical and operating standards.

The Turnbull Government believes that ongoing funding of clinical quality registries, requires ongoing co-operation and contributions from the private sector, who will also benefit from the collection of information.

The Coalition is committed to providing affordable access to life saving medicines, including medicines for leukaemia.

Since 2013 under the Coalition nearly 1,000 new medicines worth \$4.4 billion were approved for the PBS. This is compared to the 331 new medicines in Labor's last three years of government. Under the Coalition, all Australians have had access to three times as many new medicines – not just those who can afford to pay.

This included the listing of ponatinib (Iclusig®) for rare chronic myeloid leukaemia and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia that would normally cost up to \$66,500 per year for treatment at an overall cost of \$20 million.

It also included the listing of brentuximab vedotin (Adcetris®) for lymphoma that would normally cost up to \$110,000 per patient at an overall cost of \$15 million.