



Leader of the Opposition

15 March 2017

Thank you for your participation at Labor's National Health Policy Summit on 3 March.

We hope it demonstrated how important health policy is to Labor and how sincere we are about the next Labor Government improving Australia's health and health care system. We are grateful for you taking the time to share your views both on the day and as we develop our policies for the next election. This will help us develop a health platform that improves the quality of health care available to all Australians and a plan for the system a decade from now and beyond.

Over the coming months, we will reach out as we establish a more formal means of seeking advice from you and the others who know Australia's health system best. There are a great many challenges in doing this including improving primary care, hospitals, the mental health of Australians, reducing the prevalence of suicide and ensuring the right policies are in place to support Australia's ageing population, especially when it comes to our health workforce. These are not issues any individual or group will be able to address on their own.

On the day, we spoke of the boom and bust in health care policy of the recent past and the uncertainty and impact created through deep cuts and sudden swerves in policy and funding. It is our hope that the Summit is the first step in moving beyond this cycle, and that it provides a base for a discussion about the best way to pursue health reform, and a commitment between political leaders and the health sector about how this can be achieved.

Finally, a number of attendees raised the issue of the Summit being a more regular event. We are open to this and you can expect to hear from us again accordingly.

Thank you again for your contribution and we look forward to working with you between now and the next election and beyond.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Bill Shorten'.

Bill Shorten
Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Minister for Indigenous
Affairs and Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islanders

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Catherine King'.

Catherine King
Shadow Minister for Health and
Medicare

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julie Collins'.

Julie Collins
Shadow Minister for Ageing and
Mental Health