



19 May 2022

Fiona Ellis
CEO
HeartKids
PO Box 2037
Nth Parramatta NSW 2130
By email: Fiona.ellis@heartkids.org.au

Dear Ms Ellis,

Thank you for your letter of 6 May 2022 about election priorities and for your support and advocacy for the 70,000 children and young people who suffer from congenital, or childhood acquired heart disease.

All Australians deserve access to universal, prompt, and world class medical care, and no one deserves to face a multi-year wait for vital treatments simply due to the cost. Labor built Medicare, which is the cornerstone of our health system. Australians know they can trust us to keep Medicare safe and strong, and to put the health of people first.

Over the nine years that the Liberals have been in Government, it has become harder for Australians to access affordable healthcare. Almost a decade of neglect and attacks means that primary care is in crisis, particularly General Practice in outer suburbs and regional and rural communities. Average out of pocket Medicare costs have increased by 53 percent under the Liberals. Demand for healthcare is skyrocketing and it is only through fixing primary care that we will take the pressure off our hospitals.

Labor wants all Australians to have better healthcare and to reduce costs of medicine, treatment and out of pocket expenses. Labor has made a number of health-related election commitments to make it easier to see a doctor, including a new \$750 million Strengthening Medicare Fund to deliver better access and care for patients. These policies can be found [here](#).

If elected to Government Labor will take advice from the Department of Health and engage with stakeholders including HeartKids in considering the more detailed proposals that you have outlined for future programs. Labor will honour existing budget measures, research, and programs relevant to HeartKids that have been entered into by Government.

Thank you for writing about these important issues.

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