

Media release

ADEA welcomes Labor's investment in diabetes

The Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) commends the Labor Party's commitment to invest in continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) technology and insulin pump program:

- \$79.4 million over four years to fully subsidise CGM technology for those in need
- \$4 million to expand access to the Insulin Pump Program

There are currently 13,600 children and young adults under 21 with type 1 diabetes.

They are required to monitor their glucose levels multiple times a day by pricking their fingers otherwise they risk both short and long term complications including injury, lasting damage or even death.

A CGM device provides continuous, 24-hour per day, monitoring of a person's glucose levels and can improve the quality of life especially for people at risk of hypoglycaemia.

Labor's promised investment will result in removing cost barriers to people with diabetes who will most benefit from this technology.

The expansion of the Insulin Pump Therapy program will make insulin pump therapy more accessible, providing 200 pumps each year.

Credentialed diabetes educators are best equipped to educate people with diabetes in pump therapy and continuous glucose monitoring, assisting the Labor's plan to improve the quality of life and productivity of people with type 1 diabetes.

Dr Joanne Ramadge, ADEA CEO, says 'this is an important commitment that will help many Australian with diabetes. ADEA is pleased that diabetes is prioritised as a significant election issue'.

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Key facts

ADEA is the leading Australian organisation for health professionals who provide diabetes education and care.

Type 1 diabetes develops when the immune system destroys the insulin-making cells in the pancreas and there is not yet a cure.

Credentialed Diabetes Educator is a health practitioner who is qualified to provide people with diabetes with consistent high quality diabetes education and care. They are highly qualified multidisciplinary health care professionals. The Credentialed Diabetes Educator status is recognised by Medicare Australia, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Private Health Insurance funds. This recognition allows people living with diabetes to claim rebates for their CDE consultation/s following a referral from their General Practitioner. There are more than 1,200 CDEs working with people with diabetes in private practices, communities and hospitals in Australia.