



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALIA

31st August 2025

The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Butler,

Re: Acknowledge Your Commitment to Women's Health

On behalf of Zonta Australia, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude for the Albanese Government's vital investment in women's health through the 2025–26 Federal Budget. We warmly welcome the allocation of \$573.3 million to deliver more choice, lower costs and better health care for women—a long-overdue turning point in equity-driven healthcare reform.

Key initiatives we applaud include:

- PBS listings of oral contraceptive options (Yaz® and Yasmin®) and menopausal hormone therapies—the first such listings in decades—providing significant savings for thousands of women.
- Expanded bulk billing and Medicare support, including larger rebates for IUDs and birth-control implants, substantially reducing out-of-pocket expenses for hundreds of thousands of women.
- Establishment of 11 new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics—bringing the total to 33—and ensuring specialist support for menopause and perimenopause across these clinics.
- A new PBS listing for a cutting-edge endometriosis treatment, estimated to benefit approximately 8,500 women annually by alleviating significant cost burdens.

These developments are not just health improvements; they are a statement of respect for Australian women's lived experience. As you aptly stated, *"it's about time Australian women had more choice, lower costs and better health care."*

Zonta Australia values the collaborative and evidence-informed approach taken in designing these reforms—grounded in extensive consultation with women, health

providers, advocacy groups, and the National Women's Health Advisory Council. We also recognise that this funding milestone builds on the even broader \$793 million commitment announced in the Women's Budget Statement to enhance women's healthcare nationally.

While these reforms are deeply welcomed, we recognise that there is still important work to be done to ensure women's health equity is fully realised. Areas that would benefit from continued attention include:

- Expanding access for women in regional, rural and remote communities, where specialist services remain limited;
- Ensuring intersectional equity in women's health—particularly for First Nations women, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and women with disabilities;
- Strengthening mental health services and family violence prevention programs, which remain critical gaps in women's wellbeing; and
- Sustaining long-term investment in research and data collection to guide policy, especially in under-researched areas such as menopause, reproductive health, and chronic conditions like endometriosis.

Zonta Australia stands ready to work alongside government and community partners to ensure these reforms reach all women and continue to evolve to meet emerging needs.

Once again, thank you for championing women's health as a national priority and for making meaningful strides toward a more inclusive and equitable Australian healthcare system.

Kind Regards

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Bridget Mather PSM

Chair: Zonta Australia Committee

E:mail: admin@zontaaustralia.org.au

Mobile: +61 418710643

www.zontaaustralia.org.au

Cc: Hon Emma McBride MP
Senator Katy Gallagher
Hon Rebecca White MP