The Health Minister

The Hon Greg Hunt MP

PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au

[insert Date]

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you regarding the government’s decision to prevent private health fund rebates on complementary therapies, especially Bowen Therapy. I am a Bowen Therapist, whose business is under threat due to the removal of the rebate currently enjoyed by many of my clients. Without that rebate, many patients will start to cut back on their health care, resulting in harm to their health and devastating losses for my business.

Many of my clients have come to me after trying multiple modalities such as physiotherapy, chiropractic and osteopathy and only found relief with Bowen Therapy. You are now forcing some of them financially back to things that did not work that well for them. I’ve also had clients who have been due to undergo surgery who have come to not need that surgery after a series of treatments – how is the health budget paying for surgery more cost-effective than paying 30% of the small rebate that consumers get from health insurance?

Most in our industry are small businesses – typical Liberal Party constituents. Many are women. In pursuing this policy, you are attacking both small business and women in business. If our income is cut, we’ll collect less GST, pay less income tax and spend less in our communities. How is this not false economy? While I’m sure you’ve meant to do the right thing with this policy, you’re actually doing a lot of damage.

I ask you to please reconsider this approach and look to savings elsewhere. Our health is too valuable to cut corners on. This policy will very much affect my voting intentions at the next election.

Yours faithfully,

[insert name]

[insert your address]