



Jo Scard  
Founder & CEO  
Fifty Acres

[jo@fiftyacres.com](mailto:jo@fiftyacres.com)

Dear Ms. Scard

I write in response to your correspondence of 13 April 2022 to Mark Butler MP about Occupational Therapy Australia (OTA) and the OTA playbook.

Labor appreciates the key role that OTA plays in advocating for occupational therapists and Allied Health professionals more broadly within primary health care, mental health, disability, and age care. I would like to thank you and your members for the important work they do every day.

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 our people first.

Since the Liberals have been in Government, it has become harder for Australians to access affordable health care. Almost a decade of neglect and attacks means that primary care is in crisis.

Allied Health has a key role in the strengthening of health care. We know that care is enhanced when allied health professionals are included in a teams-based approach to care. This is equally important in aged care, where allied health professionals often take an even larger role in delivering care. Throughout the pandemic allied health workers have been on the front line delivering care and support for the community.

The NDIS is Australia's disability safety net. It is a proud Labor reform like Medicare, that has been damaged by a decade of Liberal cuts and mismanagement.

An Albanese Labor Government will protect the NDIS and get it back on track, so it works for people with disability and their families, carers, disability service providers and workers. Importantly, Labor will stop the unfair cuts to NDIS participants' plans with an expert review mechanism.

Older Australians helped build this country. They worked hard, paid their taxes, and raised their families.

They rightly expected that the Federal Government would support them in their frailer years. But the Morrison Government has neglected older Australians and the aged care system for the best part of a decade, calling a Royal Commission and then delivering an underwhelming response to its Final Recommendations.

An Albanese Labor Government will take practical measures to ensure older Australians receive the aged care they deserve. Labor will invest in aged care and the issues that have been ignored by the Liberals and Nationals for almost a decade.

Access to allied health care is crucial to the health and wellbeing of aged care residents. There is a wealth of evidence that tells us just how important these interventions are in maintaining and enhancing a resident's cognitive functions, dexterity and mobility, for example.

If elected to Government, Labor will continue to work with stakeholders including OTA to strengthen and sustain the care workforce, achieve better integration into primary healthcare, including considering the more detailed policies you have outlined.

As you know, the election will be held on 21 May. Labor has already made a number of relevant election commitments which can be found [here](#). Over the next few weeks, Labor will be making more announcements as part of our commitments to strengthen Medicare.

Thank you for writing about these important issues.

Yours sincerely



Paul Erickson  
National Secretary  
Australian Labor Party