Mr/Ms XXX XXXX
PO Box XXX

XXXX NSW 2099

Dear Mr/Ms XXXX,

**Re: Government support required for the Australian Shunt Registry.**

We are a local family from your electorate, writing on behalf of family and friends born with congenital hydrocephalus; while our friend Kara has a great quality of life due to the mild nature of her health condition many others in her situation in Australia are not so lucky. Hydrocephalus is an abnormal accumulation of Cerebral-Spinal Fluid, or CSF, within cavities called ventricles inside the brain. 1 in 1000 babies in Australia are born with this condition, and there is no cure. Kara’s family personal fight is to gather as much funding as possible into research and data collection, so that the neurosurgeons who look after our daughter are equipped to improve the quality of life for her and other hydrocephalus patients across the country.

In 2013 the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia received a Grant of $165,000 from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging to move forward with the development of the Australian Shunt Registry. The funding agreement concluded on 30 June 2014.

As there are no accurate statistics we can only make assumptions as to the amount of money it costs the State and Federal Governments to cover the cost of Shunt operations and revisions. So let us keep numbers to a minimum

* Say there are 30 neurosurgeons in Australia
* Say that they perform 1500 shunt operations and revisions per year
* Let us assume the average cost per operation is $8,000
* Total cost to the Government $12,000,000
* If the Registry can reduce Shunt operations and revisions by 1% there will be a saving to the Government of $120,000 and could possibly save some one's life.

**We believe that a much larger saving can be achieved.**

As a family/supporter we have no answers as to how our friend Kara’s health condition will be in the future. Our hope is to gather as much research and data to assist the health professionals her family rely on to ensure better options for all sufferers of Hydrocephalus and less chance of shunt failure which can result in death.

**We would appreciate your Government's support in helping to maintain a Shunt Register.** We ask you to lobby your party and the Minister for Health and Ageing to support Government funding of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia and its maintenance of the Shunt Registry by paying the salary and overheads of one full time employee. This is anticipated as an annual contribution or grant of $60,000.00.

As a constituent/citizen, I would be pleased to meet with you to explain more about this topic and how can you assist in saving lives and reducing cost to both the Commonwealth and State Health Systems. If you would like to meet to discuss this issue please feel free to contact me on XXXXX.

Yours sincerely

XXX XXXX