



Hon Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000  
GPO Box 48 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100  
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231

11 JUN 2019

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3056-19, tabled in Parliament on 11 June 2019, in relation to newborn screening for Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID).

I am informed that a Newborn Bloodspot Screening National Policy Framework (the Framework) was recently developed by the Standing Committee on Screening (SCoS) and endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee. Many support groups were involved in the process of developing the Framework which ensures that Australian states have a uniform approach to newborn bloodspot screening. The Framework outlines the pathway to decide which conditions should be recommended for addition to, or removal from, the newborn bloodspot screening panel.

The pathway involves interested parties (a support group, clinician, newborn screening scientist/clinician - ideally a combination of these) making a submission on the nomination form available on the SCoS website. Once that submission is received, it is reviewed by the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Working Group (NBSWG). If it fulfils the requirements of the Framework, it is forwarded to the SCoS who conduct an in-depth analysis of scientific literature on the disorder, available treatment and newborn screening for that disorder. In addition, a cost benefit analysis is performed.

A submission has been received for the addition of SCID to the newborn screening program which has been approved by the NBSWG and forwarded to SCoS for a full assessment by experts within this clinical area. If that assessment approves the addition of this test to the national newborn bloodspot screening panel, then funding for this to occur as part of Queensland newborn screening program can be considered by Queensland Health.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely,

**STEVEN MILES MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**