Clinical Excellence Queensland

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[Date]

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Statewide Clinical Network for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME)**

I am writing to support the initiative by ME Group Australia and add my voice to establishing the Statewide Clinical Network for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME). As clinicians, we need to enhance the understanding of ME and promote clarity and consistency for optimal clinical identification and treatment.

I am aware that Myalgic Encephalomyelitis International Consensus Primer for Medical Practitioners (ICP) is a fit for purpose clinical guideline for ME, which ME Group Australia supports.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Suggestion 1

As a [GP / clinician], we rarely have time to learn about nor provide the best practice care for patients with complex diseases like ME. It is very frustrating that there is no designated specialist to refer patients for appropriate assessment and management.

Suggestion 2

As a [Neurologist / Cardiologist / Rheumatologist / Endocrinologist], I do not feel confident to confirm the diagnosis and care for patients with ME because there is no Continuing Professional Development education for ME.

According to the ICP (p1), the prevalence of ME is between 0.4 and 1%. This means there are between 20,752 and 51,880 Queenslanders afflicted.

An estimated 25% of patients with ME are Severe (mostly housebound) and Very Severe (mostly bedridden and need help with basic functions). We currently do not have the systemic capacity to provide adequate continuing care to this group of patients. [[2]](#footnote-2)

Patients are desperate to receive compassionate care and support based on the most recent scientific evidence. They educate themselves on their illness and expect us, as their treating medical practitioners, to have at least the same level of knowledge about this condition.

Accordingly, I believe the need for the Statewide Clinical Network for ME is urgent.

Sincerely

[Name]

[Occupation]

[Contact information]

[Address]

Ahpra Registration No.: [xxx]

1. <https://tinyurl.com/MEICC-ICP> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://researchnow.flinders.edu.au/en/activities/meet-the-mindsbrave-highlighting-the-unseen-bringing-frail-homebo> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)