

## Clear the Confusion – Briefing Note

### **Provide equal access to trusted health practitioners to reduce medical and hospital burden**

We know that **essential healthcare providers, such as myotherapists, help ease the pressure on our hospital system and medical practitioners.** This is particularly important at this crucial time.

We also know that patients with chronic health conditions are often not keen to attend regular scheduled meetings with their medical practitioners right now. Teleconsultations improve access to healthcare but are not suitable in all cases.

### **Victoria's current approach to permitted healthcare is creating widespread confusion.**

During the initial Covid lockdowns, **Victoria was the first state to adopt a sensible solution to permitted essential healthcare.**

Contrast that with Victoria's approach to permitted essential healthcare during Stage Four lockdown. The directions are changing regularly and each new direction simply adds to the confusion among healthcare providers and patients.

**Victorians are suffering – they rely on their healthcare providers to help them ease the burden of chronic conditions and pain.** But with the country's most strict prohibition on healthcare practice, **numerous healthcare providers have ceased practice.** Patients now have no choice but to cease essential work, rely on opioids and/or NSAIDs for some level of pain relief or to increase pressure on already overburdened hospitals and medical practitioners.

Patients with chronic healthcare issues generally build a relationship of trust and understanding with their preferred healthcare provider, like their myotherapist, over long periods of time. When access to their preferred healthcare provider is removed, they suddenly do not know where to turn for appropriate assistance during a national healthcare crisis. This is **impacting their physical and mental health.**

We are preparing a full submission for your consideration, which includes examples of real life impacts on clients, patients and the healthcare system.

We request an urgent meeting with you to develop a solution that works for Victorian patients, the Victorian government, and myotherapy, in the current environment.

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