

From: ACNP Policy
Sent: Tuesday, 4 March 2025 1:29 PM
To: Committee Social Issues
Cc: Leanne Boase; Dominique Yucel
Subject: CM: Review of Transcript Standing Committee on Social Issues - Impacts of Loneliness NSW

Dear Teneale,

Thank you for your email.

We have reviewed the transcript for the inquiry into the prevalence, causes and impacts of loneliness in New South Wales and confirm that there are no further corrections or changes to be made to the post-hearing responses for Professor Boase and Mrs Sedgman.

The highlighted section of the transcript across pages 25-26 for Rebecca Sedgman was related to the provision of further information about the Victorian Government social prescribing initiative, and the utilisation of Link workers in the following Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals:

- Benalla, Wangaratta and Mansfield
- Brimbank
- Frankston
- Greater Geelong and Queenscliffe
- Latrobe
- Whittlesea.

This social prescribing initiative was trialled to support people experiencing loneliness and social isolation, helping them build a sense of belonging and develop meaningful connections by connecting with others and engaging in community-based activities, such as art, creative, nature, or other groups and activities

Link workers are allocated to help strengthen pathways between Local Services and community initiatives and activities to reduce loneliness and social isolation. They support people to build their confidence and participation in activities and social groups.

Victorian Government initiative Recommendation 15.4 of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (Royal Commission) recognised that communities play a critical role in supporting mental health and wellbeing, particularly social connectedness. It recommended the Victorian Government trial social prescribing in the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals.

Website Link: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-wellbeing-reform/local-connections-social-prescribing-initiative>

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Standing Committee on Social Issues. We welcome further opportunities to collaborate and contribute.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Sedgman



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