

[Day] [Month] 2026

[Senator Name]

Senator for [State]

[Address line 1]

[Address line 2]

Via email: [Senator email address]

Dear [Senator]

RE: The Australian Government's decision to allow pharmacists to prescribe contraception

I am writing to highlight my deep concern for women following the Federal Government's decision to ignore expert advice from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and allow pharmacists to prescribe the oral contraceptive pill.

When pharmacy prescribing of hormonal contraception was considered by the TGA in 2021, the independent regulator declined to down-schedule oral contraceptives, citing the risk of serious adverse health outcomes and concluding that pharmacist-only consultations were not sufficient to ensure patient safety over time. Yet the government has chosen to override the advice of the nation's independent medicines regulator, a regulator that only exists to keep patients safe.

This reckless decision raises the question; are political pressure and large political donations being allowed to dictate health policy? Australians deserve to know.

Hormonal contraception has well established risks including increased risk of stroke and blood clots. Stroke remains one of the leading causes of death and disability in Australian women, and changes in hormonal status, such as those caused by use of the oral contraceptive pill, are amongst the most significant risk factors.

One of the greatest strengths of Australia's health system is that medicines policy is guided by independent experts, not political convenience. Women deserve access to contraception that is guided by medical advice that considers an individual woman's full health history and risk profile.

Access matters. But women deserve safety **and** access.

Women's health is not a pilot project. I urge you to call on Health Minister Mark Butler to reconsider the Australian Government's decision to expand pharmacy prescribing and return medicine scheduling and prescribing policy to the independent experts who exist to protect patient safety.

Yours sincerely,

[GP advocate name]

[GP advocate practice name]