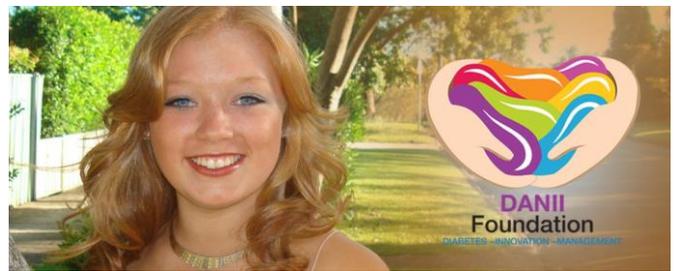


Briefing Paper: Saving and improving the lives of Australians with Type 1 diabetes

DANII Foundation: The Face of Type 1 Diabetes

Expanding funding for life saving technology to Australians living with Type 1 diabetes



Background: In April 2017 the Federal Government launched a \$54M program to improve the daily lives of Australians under 21 years living with Type 1 diabetes; providing continuous glucose monitors *CGM (a device providing blood glucose readings at 5 minute intervals and alarming wearer and secondary alarm holder in the event of low and high blood glucose levels). In March 2019 CGM funding expanded to include pregnant and planning, and some people with type 1 diabetes aged 21 years or older who have concessional status and deemed to have a high clinical need. This funding recognised CGM's as life-saving technology with the capacity to prevent unnecessary death. Beneficiaries of the scheme are overwhelmingly reporting that CGM technology is transformative to their quality of life and management of diabetes.

Issues:

- Over 140,000 Australian's are insulin dependent requiring 24/7 blood-glucose monitoring. Approximately 37,000 are CGM funded including around 10,000 children under the age of 21. Type 1 diabetes does not disappear when one comes of age.
- For **type 1 diabetes**, the total **annual cost** in **Australia** is \$570 million, with the total **average annual cost** per person being \$4,669. The average total annual cost is \$3,468 for people without complications, however this can rise to \$16,698 for people with both micro- and macrovascular complications.^{12 13 14}
- The DANII Foundation has unique expertise in CGM use and related results. The organisation has funded two week trials for its members as well as 12-Month Fully funded CGM Scholarships. Over **2500** trials and Scholarships have been completed with a wealth of qualitative data.
- THE DANII Foundation has an expert advisory panel guiding our approach and supporting our aim to provide government with sound advice to ensure the optimal use of any funding provided.
- The DANII Foundation is concerned with the delivery of other diabetes programs, particularly the Insulin Pump program that delivers so few pumps and also those that were outdated technology.
- The DANII Foundation supports the integrity of the governments funding announcements and its commitment to life-saving technology.
- The DANII Foundation supports CGM monitoring with in-situ alarm capacity and the ability to connect to a secondary remote alarm.
- The DANII Foundation supports patient choice in accessing technology that suits their needs. The Foundation believes that government funding priority must be to technology with in-situ and secondary alarm capacity to alert carers remotely when the CGM diabetic is in need of emergency aid.
- **Dead in bed syndrome** (DIB) is a term used to describe the sudden unexplained **deaths** of people **with type 1 diabetes**. The **syndrome** is characterised as when **someone** with insulin dependent **diabetes** has gone to **bed** seemingly perfectly fine and has been found **dead** in an undisturbed **bed**.
- **It is estimated that "Dead in Bed Syndrome" accounts for between 4.7 and 27.3% of deaths to T1D's.**^{1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11} **In real terms this means anywhere between 7,000 and 28,000 Australians** go to bed every night not knowing if they will wake the next morning.
- Dead in Bed Syndrome is a leading cause of death for people aged under 40 with type 1 diabetes.
- The financial cost to the Australian taxpayer is also significant. While the direct cost of diabetes is estimated at around 1.7 billion; the Australian National Diabetes Strategy estimates the full cost of diabetes may be as high as \$14.6 billion, and includes reduced productivity, absence from work, early retirement, premature death and bereavement.^{12 13 14}

Recommendations:

- Funding be extended/policy developed to support CGM technology for insulin dependent adults living with type 1 diabetes.
- Consideration be made to developing a co-pay proposal, based on income.

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¹⁴ [The Rising Economic Cost of Diabetes](#) Canstar: [The costs of diabetes among Australians aged 45–64 years from 2015 to 2030: projections of lost productive life years \(PLYs\), lost personal income, lost taxation revenue, extra welfare payments and lost gross domestic product from Health&WealthMOD2030](#) BMJ 2016 [Diabetes Australia](#)