



DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

The Hon. Mark Butler
Minister for Health and Aged Care
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Minister Butler,

Re: Vaccine Injury Compensation Scheme

I recently met with Professor Nick Wood, a constituent and Professor of Clinical Vaccinology at the University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine and Health. Professor Wood has submitted a proposal advocating for a no-fault vaccine injury compensation scheme (VICS) in Australia. This initiative has strong backing from leading vaccine experts and is supported by prominent organisations, including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases, the Australian Paediatric Nurses Association, and the Public Health Association of Australia.

Australia's immunisation program has greatly benefited public health, and we are proud of its success in disease prevention. However, as one of the few developed countries without a VICS, we lag behind nations such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, and New Zealand, where such schemes have been successfully established. A VICS for all Commonwealth-funded vaccines would provide essential support, covering medical expenses, income loss, and care costs for those impacted by rare vaccine injuries.

The COVID-19 vaccine claims scheme, introduced in 2021, was an important first step in supporting individuals affected by rare vaccine injuries during the pandemic. Building on this, a comprehensive VICS would offer enduring support, bolstering public trust in the safety of all vaccines within our National Immunisation Program.

As outlined in the draft National Immunisation Strategy 2025–2030, a well-structured VICS would align Australia with international best practices while fostering confidence among Australians who contribute to public health through vaccination. Additionally, such a scheme could be cost-neutral, funded by a modest levy on vaccine procurement contracts, as implemented in other countries.

I fully support Professor Wood's proposal and respectfully encourage the government to prioritise funding in the 2025 budget to establish a no-fault VICS. This initiative would further strengthen Australia's immunisation program and enhance public confidence, which is vital to our national health security.

Thank you for considering this important proposal.



DR SOPHIE SCAMPS MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACKELLAR

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Dr Sophie Scamps

Federal Member for Mackellar