

Hon. Stephen Jones
Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services

31 January 2025

Dear Assistant Treasurer

As members of the cross bench of the 47th Parliament, we are deeply concerned at indications the Labor government will not deliver on its promise to ban the use of genetic test results in life insurance underwriting in this Parliamentary term.

The Government's promise, made in September 2024, was welcomed by the cross bench, members of our communities, the Opposition, and the life insurance industry. It followed a thorough and extensive consultation process, which received over 1000 submissions, more than 97% of which supported a total legislative ban on genetic discrimination in life insurance. There is now no known political or industry opposition to implementing this legislative ban.


Since that time, the Government has reiterated its commitment to legislating in this term, including on the second last day of sitting in 2024, in response to a query in Question Time. With an election looming, the Government must act now to deliver on this promise.

We understand from our constituents that this is a matter of significant importance to a broad number of Australians. We have also heard that there is confusion about whether the September announcement signified that the law had already changed.


It is unacceptable that the Government has represented to Australians that this critical protection would be implemented, and then failed to take steps to introduce this non-controversial measure to Parliament.


Given the level of bipartisan support for the ban, we call on the Government to urgently prioritise this legislation to ensure it can be voted on by the Parliament in the February sitting weeks.

Yours sincerely


Kylea Tink MP, Member for North Sydney 

Zoe Daniel MP, Member for Goldstein 


Monique Ryan MP, Member for Kooyong 

Zali Steggall MP, Member for Warringah 

Helen Haines MP, Member for Indi

Sophie Scamps MP, Member for Mackellar 

Andrew Wilkie MP, Member for Clark 

Kate Chaney MP, Member for Curtin 

Allegra Spender MP, Member for Wentworth



David Pocock, Senator for Australian Capital Territory



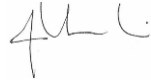
Jordon Steele-John, Senator for Western Australia
Australian Greens Spokesperson on Health



David Van, Senator for Victoria



Jacqui Lambie, Senator for Tasmania
Jacqui Lambie Network



Fatima Payman, Senator for Western Australia
Australia's Voice



Tammy Tyrrell, Senator for Tasmania



Copy to: Hon. Jim Chalmers, Treasurer; Hon. Mark Butler, Minister for Health and Aged Care; Hon. Mark Dreyfus, Attorney-General; Hon. Tony Burke, Leader of the House