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From: John Brown
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To: Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Subject: inquiry into the Establishment of Health Promotion Commission

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I wish to submit some short responses that the committee should address during their investigation.

1. The definition of Chronic Disease set by the Commonwealth does not allow for health issues that have the potential to become a Chronic Disease. It would be better if Risk Factors were addressed.
2. As a practising health professional it concerns me of the primary health care issues that have been ceased because of lack of politicians insight into the benefits of effective health promotion. An example was the ceasing of Sexual Health clinics particularly in North Queensland. I am advised by my sexual health colleagues of a significant rise in the number of reportable Syphilises cases due to the lack of education and screening being carried out.
3. If the inquiry determines to establish a Health Promotion Commission, then significant funding needs to be allocated to ensure they are not ineffective in their work. In terms of funding specific projects, it may be appropriate to provide an application grant based system where organisations/universities are encouraged to make submissions for specific health promotion projects that should be funded. The Commission should be set up independent of Universities but the with the ability to co opt members on specific issues.
4. One aspect that has been lost in the past is that strategies do not work for all communities, therefore health promotion should be locally based to meet local needs, should be evidenced based and the effectiveness of the each individual program should be evaluated using Process, Impact and where possible, Outcome evaluation techniques. Theorists would suggest that Outcome evaluation cannot be measured until some years later, however I believe that Outcome evaluation can be measured with individuals by taking base line measurements at the beginning of a program then repeating those measurements at the end of a program to analyse how effective the program was. This has been successful in Men's health program where a sessions of education and physical activity was introduced over a 12 week period and results achieved. It achieved this by using peer support processes.
5. The value of Chronic Disease Practice nurse should not be undervalued on General Practice. It is these professionals who take the time to build rapport with patients and then able to provide education in a language acceptable to the patient. A good example is my own practice of managing diabetic patients where I can use empathy in understanding individual situations and working with the patient to find alternative approaches to better health.

Thank you for considering these aspects.

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