



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 July 2012 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, regarding male circumcision. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

I note your concerns, and also your previous correspondence regarding this issue to the Prime Minister, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, and to the previous Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Nicola Roxon MP.

Male circumcision of infants, boys and adult men may be necessary for a range of medical conditions. There are several Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) items available for medically indicated circumcision. Elective male circumcision, which may be carried out for religious, cultural or personal reasons, is not covered by an MBS item.

In your correspondence you have also sought the views of the Minister for Health on issues relating to the Family Law Act. This is outside the responsibilities of this portfolio, and the Department of Health and Ageing is not able to respond.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sally Goodspeed'.

Sally Goodspeed
Assistant Secretary
Health in Social Policy Branch
September 2012