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## INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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Prof. Brendan Murphy  
Secretary  
Department of Health  
GPO Box 9848  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Professor Murphy

### COMPLIANCE ADVICE ON THE PROPOSED COVID-19 MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGN

The Independent Communications Committee (the Committee) considers proposed advertising campaigns with expenditure expected to be \$250,000 or more, and provides independent advice to the relevant Chief Executive.

On 2 September 2020, the Committee considered the COVID-19 Mental Health campaign being developed by the Department of Health. As part of its consideration of this campaign, the Committee met with your officers and reviewed the following supporting documentation:

1. communication strategy
2. formative communications research
3. draft media strategy and indicative media plan overview
4. a statement against Principles 1 to 4 of the *Guidelines on Information and Advertising Campaigns by non-corporate Commonwealth entities* (Guidelines).

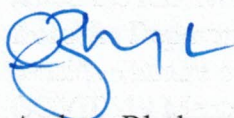
The Committee determined that the campaign is relevant to government responsibilities (Principle 1), and that the campaign is being developed in line with Principles 2 to 4 of the Guidelines. The Committee's view has been formed at the communication strategy stage, and it has not considered the advertising materials which have yet to be developed. The Committee noted the relatively short campaign development timeline and were satisfied by reassurances from the Department that sufficient time would be allowed to nuance the messaging given the sensitive nature of the content. For this reason, the Committee has concluded that the proposed COVID-19 Mental Health campaign is capable of complying with Principles 1 to 4 of the Guidelines.

As legal and procurement matters relating to the campaign are not considered by this Committee, you will need to seek advice and assurance from your entity with respect to compliance with Principle 5 of the Guidelines.

This letter will be published on the Department of Finance website after the campaign is launched.

Any additional phases of the campaign will require separate consideration by the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Blyth  
Chair  
Independent Communications Committee