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To:
cc:
Subject:

I attended a meeting of concerned recipients of plasma products and their families last night. Many issues were raised and discussed openly. While this can be a very emotive issue I believe there are genuine areas of concern about possible changes. A major concern was the screening process. The current process employed in Australia ensures a high quality and consistent product. If Australia was to access plasma products derived from pooled plasma, I would like guarantees that the same standards and quality of product would be as good. It is believed by last night's group that Australia sets and maintains very high standards both in its collection and treatment phases of plasma. If there was to be a change made that would mean plasma fractionation happening overseas, I would require much evidence to prove that the new product was to reach the same high quality of product that my son is currently receiving. We are talking not only about quality of life in this situation but also literally life and death. Children with primary immune deficiencies died forty years ago because nobody knew how to treat their condition. We have come a long way in a short time and yet still managed to provide a quality product that is available when needed. I realised that there are many other people who rely on plasma products, but I can best share my thoughts and fears about an area I am more knowledgeable in. I am not a person who is against change where necessary, but when we are talking about people's livelihood and health I think we need to look beyond cost and economic reasoning. It is a government's duty to provide all its citizens with adequate health care. Plasma products rely on the generous donations of citizens, many who give freely without a vested interest, without payment. Most donors give their blood as a community service, knowing that it is helping fellow citizens of Australia. I worry about the donating public's feelings if they thought their plasma would be pooled and used for profit. My son keeps a reasonable health because of the IVIG he receives. If changes are necessary I hope that all concerns are addressed and he will continue to receive the same quality of product that sustains him at present.

I would be willing to discuss my concerns and opinions further if required.

Heather Campbell

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