



Australian Government
Department of Health

Dr Ellen Skladzien
Chief Executive Officer
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Re: Public Consultation Submission – Review of the Antenatal Care Guidelines

Dear Dr Skladzien

As Project Manager responsible for the review of the Antenatal Care Guidelines (Guidelines), and on behalf of the Department of Health, I would like to sincerely thank you for your submission to the review of the Antenatal Care Guidelines. The input and expertise of your organisation and your comments on the public consultation draft are greatly appreciated.

The issues you raised in your submission, including discussing different trajectories and outcomes that the chromosomal conditions may have, discussing high probability test results, and providing information about the conditions being tested for, have been carefully considered by the Expert Working Group (EWG) and the Department and have assisted us to improve the content and language of the chapter on chromosomal anomalies.

The EWG considered your comments regarding confirming informed consent via written consent. Informed consent was also raised in relation to a number of other issues, including weighing women in pregnancy. Whilst the EWG has not adopted the suggestion to obtain written consent, the Guidelines highlight the importance of informed consent for both testing for probability and diagnostic testing.

The Guidelines are expected to be tabled at the NHMRC Council meeting on 12 October 2017. It is anticipated that the revised Guidelines will be publicly released either late this year or early in 2018 under the new title 'Pregnancy Care Guidelines'.

Thank you again for taking the time to share your expertise and insights to ensure the guidelines represent a balanced view and provide appropriate guidance to health professionals.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Young'.

Louis Young
Director
Chronic Disease Management Section

29 August 2017