



PO Box 826
Broadway NSW 2007

T: 02 9211 2441 | F: 02 9211 2281

www.amt.org.au
info@amt.org.au

ABN 32 001 859 285
Established 1966

15 March 2020

Hon Mr Scott Morrison
Prime Minister of Australia
PO Box 1036
Cronulla NSW 2230

Dear Prime Minister

The Association of Massage Therapists (AMT) represents over 3300 massage therapists and students. We estimate that there are around 20,000 massage therapists across Australia.

AMT has been closely monitoring COVID19 so that we can advise our members on actions that are consistent with Department of Health and WHO messaging. We believe that the situation has now reached a tipping point and we are faced with the unenviable task of issuing advice to our members that will be extraordinarily difficult for them to implement without urgent and meaningful financial support from Government.

Massage therapists are predominantly self employed. Only a tiny fraction are covered by Award entitlements that will give them access to at least some paid leave, however their employers' businesses are no doubt already feeling the strain of the economic downturn and the converging effects of long-term drought, bushfire and now COVID19.

Our members are in routine, daily, non-casual contact with anywhere between 5 to 40 clients per week. Due to the nature of the work, they are unable to comply with the requirement for social distancing to help contain the rapid spread of the virus. AMT needs to advise our members to shut down as soon as possible so that they are not a vector for transmission of the virus. The majority will be in a financially precarious position when they stop seeing their clients.

The stimulus announced on Thursday does nothing to help self-employed health practitioners manage the risks associated with transmission of COVID19. We urge the Government to urgently extend stimulus to self-employed health practitioners. Massage therapists take their responsibilities as healthcare practitioners extremely seriously and they need Government help to play their part in stopping the spread of COVID19.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R Barnett'.

Rebecca Barnett
Chief Executive Officer

cc Hon. Joshua Frydenburg, Treasurer
Senator the Hon. Mathias Cormann, Minister for Finance
Hon. Greg Hunt, Minister for Health
Hon. Mark Coulton, Minister for Regional Health
Hon Peter Dutton, Minister for Home Affairs
