

15 January 2014

The Hon Jillian Skinner, MP
Level 31 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: office@skinner.minister.nsw.gov.au

NSW Business Chamber
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Dear Minister

I am writing to express the support of the NSW Business Chamber for the Government exploring additional arrangements in the administration of influenza vaccinations.

Influenza is a serious and highly contagious viral disease and infection rates have a significant impact on business productivity across the state. In 2012, the NSW Business Chamber estimated that the cost of influenza on the business sector could amount to \$482 million each flu season when accounting for lost productivity.

Each year, the NSW Business Chamber encourages businesses across NSW to check that their health and hygiene policies are up-to-date prior to the arrival of the flu season. The Chamber itself takes preventative steps to reduce the chances of infection within our workplaces and we encourage other businesses to do the same.

Unfortunately however, not all businesses have the ability to provide their workplaces with access to the influenza vaccination. This means that the only remaining option is for individuals to seek out a flu shot from a doctor, with many being deterred by the monetary and time costs of visiting their local GP.

The Chamber is aware of other countries (most notably the US) allowing trained pharmacists to administer flu vaccinations. The Chamber understands that such initiatives have helped lead to higher rates of vaccinations and assisted in reducing the incidence of infections. Accordingly, the Chamber strongly supports the Government exploring closely the potential for introducing a similar scheme in NSW.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Cartwright
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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