



**The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for Health**

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Mayor Genia McCaffery
Chair, National General Assembly
President, Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor McCaffery

I refer to your letter of 3 September 2012 to the Minister for Early Childhood and Childcare, the Hon Kate Ellis MP, regarding a number of resolutions arising from the Australian Local Government Association's 2012 National General Assembly. Your letter has been referred to me as the Minister for Health.

Minister Ellis referred your letter to me to respond to you regarding Resolution Number 71 which pertains to the issue of realistic compensation of local governments by state health authorities for the provision of early childhood health services in council facilities, and specifically, getting this matter onto the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) agenda.

As you may be aware, the Commonwealth Government continues to make a significant contribution to the good health and wellbeing of Australia's young children through initiatives including the Healthy Kids Check which is a universal voluntary health check for three-year olds. This program has been very successful in assessing the physical development of our young ones, and is now also focusing on assessing their social and emotional development as well.

As you are a member of COAG, you may wish to consider nominating this item for consideration at the Council's next meeting.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Plibersek

21.11.12