**Letter to state MPs – suggested template for members in private practice**

**Use business letterhead**

Dear [state MP for my electorate],

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to the very limited easing of restrictions in private practice allied healthcare in regional Victoria.

As a physiotherapist in private practice I, along with the rest of my allied health colleagues, remain restricted and able to provide face-to-face treatment for ‘essential care’ only. This is a small amendment to the previous threshold of ‘critical care’ and represents only a slight increase in the availability of face-to-face care for my patients.

I understand and support the need mitigate risk however, as a highly trained health professional who is instrumental in keeping people healthy and well, pain-free and mobile during this difficult time, I am dismayed at this decision. It concerns me greatly that allied health has been deemed to represent a higher risk and lesser value than beauty and grooming services who can now operate largely unrestricted.

Many of my patients have not met the criteria to be seen for many weeks, and this ongoing lack of access to care is now causing unnecessary deterioration in their health and wellbeing.

Physiotherapy is an integral part of the Australian health system - we prevent unnecessary presentations to Emergency Departments and GP practices, and play an important role in alleviating pain and distress for many Australians.

I am AHPRA-registered, trained in infection control and prioritise the health and safety of my patients at all times. During the 18 months of this pandemic, physiotherapy in private practice nationwide has been proven to be overwhelmingly safe and valuable.

I implore the State Government to take the long-term health consequences into serious consideration and allow full access to face-to-face physiotherapy care in regional Victoria.

Yours sincerely

[Name]

[Practice name]