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

**Use business letterhead**

Dear [state MP for my electorate],

I write to you as a private practice physiotherapist to voice my deepest concerns at the ongoing lack of easing of restrictions in private practice allied healthcare across Victoria, and to seek your assistance in enabling access to vital care for your constituents.

Physiotherapy in private practice, along with the rest of the allied health sector, remains restricted and able to be provided as ‘essential’ (regional) or ‘urgent/critical’ (metro) care only.

As a health professional who wants to keeps people healthy and well, pain-free and mobile during this difficult time, I am dismayed at this decision. It concerns and bewilders me that allied health can be deemed to represent a higher risk and lesser value than beauty and grooming services.

My colleagues and I are seeing huge backlogs of patients who have not met the criteria to be seen for many weeks, and whose ongoing lack of access to care will cause unnecessary deterioration in their health and wellbeing.

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

I understand and support the need mitigate risk, however, the decision to continue to heavily restrict access to allied health services is short-sighted and irresponsible. I, along with my fellow physiotherapists, are imploring the Victorian State Government to take the long-term health consequences into serious consideration and allow full access to face-to-face physiotherapy care in Victoria.

Yours sincerely

[Name]

[Practice name]