



# Sharon Claydon MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE

16 March 2022

Dr John Ward  
Chair  
Hunter Ageing Alliance  
11 Parkview Street  
GEORGETOWN NSW 2298

Dear Dr Ward *John*

Thank you for your correspondence, regarding Hunter Ageing Alliance's proposal to reinvigorate a range of exercise programs for older people in the Hunter, and ongoing conversations with my office.

I thank you for raising this important issue with me and for sharing your proposal.

I understand that alongside looking for funding from Private Health Insurers you are also looking for Government funding for the rollout of the *Active Stronger Better Pilot Program* in the Hunter region, with a view to scale it to a national roll-out in the future.

With the increasing ageing population in Australia, any program that provides enhanced mental and physical health for older people and a reduction of health costs is important.

I note you have suggested your proposed exercise programs are similar to the ones previously available through Heartmoves and Active over Fifties. Now that the Morrison Liberal Government has ceased these programs, there is a significant gap in our health system for this kind of support.

In order to bring your concerns to the Morrison Liberal Government's attention, I have written to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, asking that he consider the issues you have raised and respond accordingly. I have also CC'd in the Shadow Minister for Health, the Hon. Mark Butler MP.

I will forward the Minister's response to you as soon as it is received.

Once again, thank you for writing to me about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Claydon MP  
**Federal Member for Newcastle**



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