



The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Health Infrastructure
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Dear Dr Pearce AM

I am writing to wish you the very best for your upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting of the Immunisation Coalition in Melbourne. I hope this timely event is a success and I have no doubt it will be a useful opportunity to share up to date research and thinking on the pandemic and advances in immunisation more broadly.

Amidst all the challenges of the last few years, the benefits of protection against infectious diseases has never been clearer. Huge numbers of lives have been saved through safe and effective vaccines. It is another achievement that they could be developed, tested, distributed and administered so quickly. I am sure you will agree with me we must continue to press the importance of not only keeping up to date with Covid-19 vaccines, but with the National Immunisation Program.

Victoria is home to a thriving health and medical research community that is solving local and global health challenges every day. In addition, our status as a leading hub of pharmaceutical, biotech and medtech manufacturing is demonstrated by our large medical and vaccine manufacturing capability.

As the new Minister for Medical Research, I am excited to follow the progression of Victoria's mRNA manufacturing facility. As you will appreciate, this new capability will provide vaccine security, ensuring manufacturing can be contracted locally to avoid global supply chain issues and create a robust defence against future pandemics and other infectious diseases.

For Victoria to remain as a hub for the health and medical research industry we must keep working to use new technologies, adapt to new methods and support our research community. I have no doubt that the Immunisation Coalition's event will do just this. I look forward to hearing about the success of your event and working closely with the Immunisation Coalition into the future.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP
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