[NAME]

[ELECTORATE]

Via email: [EMAIL ADDRESS]

Dear [NAME],

I am writing to you regarding the current lack of food allergy treatment options available in New South Wales.

I have recently signed a petition to the New South Wales Legislative Assembly issued on behalf of Food Allergy Goals, a parent based organisation which has come together with the common goal of expanding treatment options for food allergy sufferers and their families.

[INSERT DETAILS OF YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH FOOD ALLERGIES IF YOU WISH TO SHARE THIS WITH YOUR LOCAL MEMBER]

I am sure you are aware that there is currently no cure for food allergies and sufferers must exercise constant diligence to avoid accidental exposure. It is also essential to have access to an adrenaline auto injector (or Epipen) at all times for use in the event of an anaphylactic reaction.

As a parent, it is extremely difficult to navigate daily life with allergen avoidance as the only strategy to deal with this potentially life threatening condition.

In recent times many New South Wales based families have temporarily relocated overseas at significant expense to receive the life changing treatment. Oral Immunotherapy, or OIT, is available in a number of medical practices across the United States. OIT involves planned and managed incremental exposure to known allergens under controlled conditions over many months to provoke desensitisation. Available information indicates that OIT has had positive results in the majority of patients who complete the course of treatment. OIT has allowed thousands of previously highly sensitive patients to consume allergens freely and, more importantly, has transformed their lives by eliminating the constant threat of anaphylaxis.

The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (“ASCIA”) released a position paper regarding OIT in Australia. They state that there are several clinical trials on OIT for food allergy underway in Australia and other countries. They further state that the trials aim to develop standardised and proven methods to maximise benefit and reduce the risk of potential harm in patients with severe food allergy. ASCIA recommends that, until such trials are completed, and methods, safety and effectiveness determined, OIT for food allergy should not be performed outside of clinical trials.

Upon reviewing the Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry however it is apparent that there are currently no clinical trials underway to facilitate the development of a standardised and proven method for the implementation of the type of OIT which is currently being sought by Australians relocating overseas.

The Australian trials are focused on the impact of complimentary therapeutics on the OIT process. In the event that the therapeutic in question is successful when combined with OIT for the treatment of single allergens further trials will be required in order to test its viability for use in OIT for other allergens. This will significantly delay the general availability of any form of trialed treatment for children with multiple food allergies in Australia.

A research clinic is an excellent way for New South Wales to maintain pace with the rest of the world in addressing a health issue which is uniquely important to Australians in light of its prevalence in this country.

I strongly urge you to take the action requested in our petition as, in doing so, you will initiate a process which has the potential to bring profound change to my family and countless others in a similar situation.

To view the petition wording please follow the following link. <https://www.foodallergygoals.com/letter-writing>.

I would welcome and opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

[INSERT NAME]

[www.foodallergygoals.com](http://www.foodallergygoals.com)

[www.facebook.com/FoodAllergyGoals](http://www.facebook.com/FoodAllergyGoals)