



Report of the Petitions Committee

Petition of Nikki Turner on behalf of United Community Action Network: Removing prescription charges for Community Service Card holders

July 2023

The Petitions Committee has considered the petition of Nikki Turner on behalf of United Community Action Network, which was presented on 22 November 2022. The petition requests:

That the House of Representatives urge the Government to amend the Health Entitlements Cards Regulations 1993 to remove all prescription costs for Community Service Card holders.

The petitioner told us she was concerned that low-income households are experiencing serious financial hardship, and that many low-income households are reliant on important medications. The petitioner submitted that prescription charges are a significant barrier to these households accessing their medications.

On 18 May 2023 the Government announced that it was removing the \$5 co-payment for prescription medicines from 1 July 2023. We trust that this will address the petitioner's concerns.

We have no further matters to bring to the attention of the House. We recommend that the House take note of our report.

Hon Jacqui Dean
Chairperson