SAMPLE LETTER/EMAIL TO YOUR FEDERAL MP OR SENATOR

Dear [*name – check title on Minister’s web page*]

**Re: Removal of shiatsu rebates**

As a voting member of your electorate, I am writing to inform you that I strongly oppose the Federal Government’s decision to remove rebates for shiatsu therapy.

Shiatsu belongs in the health rebate scheme alongside massage, acupressure and trigger point therapy (which have been retained).

I oppose this decision because it:

* disrespects the 55% of Australians accessing natural therapies
* denigrates the standing of shiatsu as a therapy to potential clients based on an inadequate and narrow review
* threatens the livelihood of more than 25,000 small business natural therapy practitioners  nationwide
* restricts shiatsu clients, who pay for health insurance, a choice in their healthcare.

[PRACTITIONERS - Add your message about the effect on your practice, your clients, the benefits they receive from shiatsu, etc.]

[CLIENTS - Add your message about the effect on your health, , benefits you receive from shiatsu, etc.]

* Please advocate on my behalf to:
* Retain shiatsu rebates
* Inquire into the bias and flaws of the government review into natural therapies
* Provide more research funding for shiatsu
* Yours sincerely,  [Name, date, suburb]