

*To offer your support to Siblings Australia:*

*1. Send the below message to the Prime Minister by going to <http://www.pm.gov.au/contact/index.cfm?p=3> and complete the contact form – then cut and paste the text below.*

*2. Also cut, paste and send the following email to each of the Ministers listed at the bottom of the page.*

The Hon Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister

Dear Mr. Rudd,

I am writing to express dismay at the decision of the federal Department of Health and Ageing to not extend support to Siblings Australia. Siblings Australia is the only organisation in this country that is committed to addressing the unique concerns of brothers and sisters of people with special needs; including chronic illness, disability and mental health issues.

It aims to strengthen families where there is a child with special needs, in particular, siblings. Siblings of children with special needs are at risk for a range of mental, physical and social health problems and without support can develop more severe mental health problems. It is important that support is given early to these young people so that they are able to not only reach their own potential, but also contribute to the wellbeing of their brother or sister with special needs.

*[INSERT HERE OR DELETE a paragraph from your own experience (personal and/or professional) about the needs of siblings, the outcomes if support is not available and the impact and importance of Siblings Australia.]*

Siblings of children with special needs are too important to ignore, not only for their own sake but also for the sake of their brother or sister with special needs.

Can you please assure me that you will explore with other Ministers which government department will take responsibility for this group of **'at risk'** children and adults?

Can you please assure me that you will seek ways in which your government will support the important work of Siblings Australia?

I look forward to your reply.

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**Copy above email to the following:**

[Nicola.Roxon.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Nicola.Roxon.MP@aph.gov.au)

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Ageing

Dear Ms Roxon...

[JMacklin.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:JMacklin.MP@aph.gov.au)

The Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

Dear Ms Macklin.....

[kate.ellis.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:kate.ellis.mp@aph.gov.au)

The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth

Dear Ms Ellis.....