<<name of health minister>>

<<address of health minister>>

<<email of health minister>>

Dear Minister

**Subject: Provision of telehealth physiotherapy in <<country>>**

In light of our collective goal to stop the spread of COVID-19 in <<country>> I am contacting you urgently regarding the issue of provision of telehealth services by physiotherapists.

<<Brief description of physiotherapy organisation. When it was established. How many PTs it represents and in what areas. >>

<< Physiotherapy organisation>> has shown great leadership during this crisis by developing a range of strategies to ensure that physiotherapists can continue to work safely and effectively to support the health system during this time.

Physiotherapy, as a health profession, has a critical role to play in maintaining the health and wellbeing of the <<insert country>> community. However with most traditional physiotherapy care suspended during the period of social distancing, patients will likely experience a deterioration of other conditions unrelated to the coronavirus.

Individuals, unable to leave their homes for several weeks, are becoming more sedentary, losing mobility and function, and will require enhanced physiotherapy services when restrictions are lifted.

However there is an opportunity to prevent this community wide functional decline.

**Telehealth physiotherapy.**

Telehealth is no different from any other physiotherapy consultation and should be conducted in a similar manner to a face-to-face consultation. A telehealth consultation of high quality is one in which assessment, clarification of diagnosis, and recommendations for treatment and review are clearly communicated as per current best practice models of care. Physiotherapists and the organisations in which they work will adhere to the same ethical principles that they would were digital technologies not being used.

In recent months we have seen health systems in the USA, Australia and the UK quickly make provision to fund this type of physiotherapy service:

**Australia**

<https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/covid-19-whole-of-population-telehealth-for-patients-general-practice-primary-care-and-other-medical-services>

**USA**

<http://www.apta.org/PTinMotion/News/2020/03/27/UHCTelehealth/>

**UK**

<https://www.csp.org.uk/news/coronavirus/remote-service-delivery-options>

Now and in the coming month’s telehealth will be an important tool in allowing physiotherapists to rise to the challenge of this unprecedented situation and prevent functional decline.

Therefore to prevent a public health emergency in the months ahead I urge your government permit this to type of physiotherapy service.

The physiotherapy profession is ready, willing and able to do what we do best - which is to help people to return to their previous level of function. However, we can only do this if we are provided with the tools to allow us to do this.

We therefore urge your government to permit the provision of telehealth physiotherapy services across the country.

In support of this proposal please find attached:

<< NACR\_TH\_Accessing\_rehab\_flyer>>

<<Any other support material>>

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

<< President of physiotherapy organisation>>

<<Physiotherapy organisation>>