



## Australian Government

### Department of Health

Ref No: MC20-030068

s47F

Dear <sup>s47F</sup>

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 July 2020 to the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP thanking the Australian Government for their continued support to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. The Minister has asked me to reply.

I am pleased Australia is supporting Gavi by pledging \$300 million over the next five years (2021-2025). This represents a 20 per cent increase on our previous contribution.

The current global challenge of the COVID-19 response is a reminder of the importance of investing in immunisation as a foundation of health security. The Global Vaccine Summit was a triumph for global collaboration – raising USD8.8 billion against a target of USD7.4 billion.

Australia's support comes at a critical time as COVID-19 places health systems under increasing stress, disrupting childhood immunisation services and putting millions at risk. Gavi will focus on ensuring services continue where they are safe to do so, and support catch-up campaigns in the recovery phase.

Australia's support to Gavi is part of our broader development effort in promoting and protecting health, including through the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security's efforts responding to the pandemic. It also sits alongside Australia's world-leading research expertise, which is contributing to the global effort to find safe and effective COVID 19 vaccines.

I value the crucial role that Gavi has played in providing vaccines to the world's poorest countries. Australia's long standing investment in Gavi is making an important contribution to improving health outcomes and health security in our region. In our work with Gavi, including in our current role Vice Chair of the Board, Australia will focus on delivering strong outcomes from this investment.

Further updates on the role that Australia is playing in our region through its financial contribution to Gavi can be provided to <sup>s22</sup> International Engagement on Communicable Disease and Health Security, International Strategies Branch, Department of Health in the first instance at <sup>s22</sup>

Yours sincerely

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Immunisation and Communicable Disease Branch  
4th August 2020

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