DRAFT TEMPLATE EMAIL TO FEDERAL CANDIDATES

Dear [INSERT name of the Federal Candidate]

I have noticed posters appearing around my suburb inviting me to consider who I will vote for in the upcoming Federal Election.

In response, I am writing to you in your role as one of my candidates with a request relating to the federal responsibility to ensure that mental health services funded by the Federal Government are evidence-based and appropriate for the needs of people impacted by BPD (ie people who live with BPD and those that support them) .

I am inviting you to show your support for the ‘[National Consensus Statement: By, With and for People Impacted by Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOQMwbGbsk07P_HJx6PDzK96-no5zm6VM2JTg9u4NRXl_FiQ/viewform))’ which you can also see by following the link on the [Australian BPD Foundation](https://bpdfoundation.org.au/) website.

In particular, I am asking you if you will put your name to this Statement via this above link.  It calls on governments and the health system to work together to achieve:

• the endorsement of a national model of care for people with borderline personality disorder (BPD)  
• an accompanying national framework for the family and carers of people with BPD  
• a national training framework for health professionals  
• establishment of a BPD Centre of Excellence in each state and territory of Australia.

In the final lead up to the Election, the Australian BPD Foundation will be publishing a list of all candidates by electorate who let them know they have signed to assist their supporters as they decide who will get their vote.

Within our Health system, General Practitioners are the first port of call for people seeking help on any medical issue.  So, it is important they understand current evidence-based treatment options so they can assess and refer to appropriate services.  However, after seven years of operation, only about half of the 31 Primary Health Networks who manage GPs nationally have developed their local HealthPathways for borderline personality disorder.

Unlike other mental illnesses, no drug has been approved (to date) for the treatment of BPD. The best available evidence suggests that BPD-appropriate psychotherapy is the most efficacious treatment for BPD.  When people are not referred for evidence-based assessment and treatment, their experiences of the mental health system too often leads to iatrogenic harm to themselves and others, disenchantment, distress, lack of trust and hostility, rather than positive outcomes.

I look forward to your reply letting me know that you have put your name to this National Consensus Statement and anything else you can do to support this most pressing issue for our health system.

Regards

[INSERT YOUR NAME]

[INSERT YOUR ADDRESS]

PS: If you have a personal or professional interest in supporting advocacy to ensure Australians living with BPD receive effective treatment and the best chance of recovery, please consider liking [the Australian BPD Foundation Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/AustralianBPDFoundation) and joining as a member [here via this link](https://bpdfoundation.org.au/membership.php).