



Glen Caro

4 March 2016

Executive Producer, Insight

Re: Episode 4 - 'Beating Diabetes'

Aired Tuesday 1 March and available via [SBS on Demand](#)

Dear Glen

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) was pleased to be contacted for expert comment on diabetes for your program that aired Tuesday 1 March. Management of Diabetes Mellitus is complex and strong evidence suggests that for optimal patient outcomes, education is best delivered by a multi-disciplinary team¹. Sadly key members of the usual management team, including an Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) and a Credentialed Diabetes Educator, were missing from the panel on Tuesday nights episode.

What makes this even more disappointing is that, upon request from the Insight team, DAA provided a Spokesperson for comment, who was interviewed at length in preparation for the program. However, he was not included in the panel for the episode. DAA understands the same thing happened regarding a Credentialed Diabetes Educator. While Michael Mosley is a medical doctor and medical journalist, he admitted himself that he was taught very little about nutrition at university. What the show demonstrated is that he knows very little of the current medical nutrition therapy for Diabetes Mellitus.

With such gross omission of expert comment during the episode (APDs are university qualified food and nutrition experts), information presented did not provide the full picture of diabetes management or a balanced argument. As a result, audience members and viewers were likely left confused and ill-informed, and in fact one audience member actually stated she was confused by information provided.

Diet plays a large and critical role in diabetes management and many other clinical conditions. To provide the Australian public with accurate and practical information, appropriate experts should be included in the panel. DAA is willing and able to provide an APD Spokesperson for interview, comment and panel participation for future topics involving nutrition, and responsible journalism would involve balanced information being presented to the audience.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Claire Hewat', is positioned below the text 'Yours faithfully'.

Claire Hewat AdvAPD

CEO Dietitians Association of Australia

Reference 1. [National Evidence Based Guideline for Patient Education in Type 2 Diabetes](#)