



3 December 2021

Ms Nicole Millis
Chief Executive Officer
Rare Voices Australia (RVA)
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Dear Ms Millis

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2021 regarding the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Persons Living with a Rare Disease and their Families (PLWRD). I am replying on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The resolution on PLWRD was adopted by consensus in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 15 November, endorsed by all countries, including Australia. Australia plans to also endorse this resolution at the full United Nations General Assembly when it goes to the vote later this month.

As a new resolution at UNGA, the rare diseases resolution has brought visibility within the UN system to persons living with a rare disease. We hope it will spur greater attention to this issue and result in positive policies and outcomes in countries around the world.

The Australian Government is committed to progressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure 'no one is left behind'. Consistent with this goal, Australia is delivering a number of initiatives for the diagnosis, treatment and surveillance of rare diseases, as well as providing access to medicines for the treatment of these diseases.

I wish you and your colleagues at Rare Voices Australia all the best in your ongoing advocacy on this important issue.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely