



CHC Supports ANAO Report for Continued Improvement of CM Regulatory Framework

Dr Morrow, Executive Director of the Complementary Healthcare Council (CHC) commented yesterday on the release of the ANAO Report, *“the CHC acknowledges that there is room for improvement in the regulatory framework of the Complementary Medicines Industry. We strongly believe that all medicines, including Complementary Medicines, on the Australian market should be of high quality, safe, effective and readily available. We will continue our proactive work with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to ensure that this is continues to be the case.”*

Dr Morrow, Executive Director of the Complementary Healthcare Council (CHC) spoke out yesterday in support of the Australian Complementary Medicines Industry following the release of the Australian National Audit Office Performance Audit Report (No. 3 2011-12) on the Regulation on Complementary Medicines.

The objective of the independent audit was to examine the effectiveness of the TGA’s administration of Complementary Medicines regulation in Australia. The primary focus was on Listed Complementary Medicines. The CHC has been actively involved in the consultation process leading up to the release of the report and is in agreement that there is room for improvement in the Complementary Medicines regulatory framework, as well as enforcement of sanctions and penalties by the TGA.

A statistic that continues to be quoted, taken from information released by the TGA earlier in the year and featured only very briefly in the report, suggests that 90% of products reviewed against regulations as part of the audit were found to be non-compliant. However, Dr Morrow has stressed that this statistic requires ‘severe caution’ as it includes a statistically insignificant sample size. *“Therefore no statistically valid, general conclusion can be drawn about the state of compliance”* concludes the ANAO Report¹ amongst its various conclusions and recommendations concerning the effectiveness of the TGA.

It is also important to note that final statistics show that 97% of the instances of non-compliance identified were almost all immediately corrected to be totally compliant. The 90% statistic encompassed a myriad of issues, from missing full stops to wrong font size in labelling.

The CHC will continue its work with the TGA to improve the regulatory framework and compliance, in particular through developing better guidance documents and training for Industry. As it currently stands, there are over 150 regulations that must be complied with, spread across 16 different guideline documents.

The Complementary Medicine Industry is also represented via the CHC’s participation on the TGA’s Office of Complementary Medicine-Industry Consultative Group (OICG), a pre consultative group that provides expert recommendations on a range of issues including: guidance documentation, compositional guidelines, quality issues and updating the Australian Regulatory Guideline for Complementary Medicines (ARGCM).

Through continued education and the provision of information, the CHC is working towards the development of the most informed Complementary Medicines consumer base in the world. The recent and continued growth of the Industry, currently worth ~AUS\$1.9 billion in revenues, claiming ~5000 highly skilled direct manufacturing

¹ Australian Complementary Medicines Industry following the release of the Australian National Audit Office Performance Audit Report (No. 3 2011-12) on the Regulation on Complementary Medicines p110 paragraph 4.87



jobs, ~60,000 indirect jobs and exporting to more than 20 countries globally, goes some way to expressing consumer satisfaction and with work continuing on further improvements the Industry is set to thrive.

For more information about the CHC please contact the CHC or visit the CHC website:

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