

Media Release

CHC Welcomes Announcement on TGA Reforms

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) welcomes the announcement from the Hon. Catherine King, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, on TGA Reforms, noting that the real test will be the implementation of the recommendations.

Catherine King's Office have today announced reforms to the TGA that will be taken forward in the form of recommendations resulting from the numerous Government and Industry reviews and working groups that have taken place over the last 18 months. The CHC broadly supports the announced reforms, whilst welcoming the fact that Industry will be consulted on relevant recommendations ahead of their implementation.

"The CHC has been actively involved in the reviews and working groups leading to the announced reforms. Ours is already the most tightly regulated and safety oriented medicines industry in the world, yet we are in complete agreement that there is room for improvement in the Complementary Medicines regulatory framework, as well as transparency and enforcement of sanctions by the TGA, which would enable them to carry out their role more efficiently, effectively and transparently," commented Dr Wendy Morrow, Executive Director of the CHC.

TGA Reforms: A blueprint for TGA's future (the Blueprint) is the focus of the today's announcement by the Parliamentary Secretary's Office and is the culmination of the recent reviews and working groups. The 56 recommendations set out within the blueprint will have a significant impact on the Complementary Medicines Industry with implementation to be spread out over the next 4 years. Given the sheer number and potential complexity of some of the recommendations, Industry consultation will be required in order to prioritise and ensure appropriate and effective implementation. *"The CHC embraced the level of involvement experienced throughout the review processes leading up to this announcement and is keen to maintain this key role throughout the ongoing implementation process."* Dr Morrow went on to say.

The Complementary Medicines market is worth ~AUS\$1.9 billion in revenues and the industry claims ~5000 highly skilled direct manufacturing jobs, ~60,000 indirect jobs and exports to more than 20 countries including Hong Kong and China. *"Given the substantial contribution made by the Complementary Medicines Industry to the Australian Economy, we are pleased to note that any reforms impacting financially on members of the Complementary Medicines Industry will be accompanied by a Cost Recovery Impact Statement."* Dr Wendy Morrow stated. *"We are also pleased that the blueprint maintains the emphasis on self-regulation and a joint approach between Industry and TGA to meet emerging challenges."* Dr Morrow further commented.

According to the Parliamentary Secretary, the aim of the blueprint is to position the TGA within the best practice regulatory framework and to address stakeholder needs, something the CHC fully supports. The Complementary Medicines Industry Regulatory Framework is already considered as a benchmark globally, these improvements only contributing to further substantiate this claim and benefitting both consumers and Industry. *"We look forward to reviewing the full implementation strategy when it is made available in early 2012 and working with Government and other stakeholders to ensure appropriate and efficient realisation of the recommendations,"* concluded Dr Morrow.

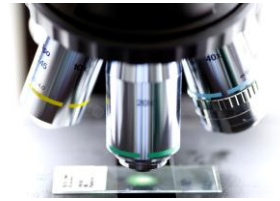
For more information about the CHC's involvement in the various Government Reviews and Working Groups, please visit the Regulatory Affairs pages of our website or contact us directly: <http://www.chc.org.au/>

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