



Media Release

Complementary Medicines, Prescription and OTC Medicines are Distinct and Regulated Accordingly.

Complementary Medicines are a distinct class of medicine, separate from Over the Counter (OTC) and Prescription medicines and are regulated accordingly. The Complementary Healthcare Council (CHC) supports this separation and the current regulations which reflect the low risk nature of the products.

Dr Wendy Morrow, Executive Director of the CHC, commented that a possible announcement by the Federal Government of a revamp of Industry regulations, as reported by the Sydney Morning Herald, is not 'news', rather that the Government are simply looking to implement recommendations emerging from the numerous reviews which have taken place over the last 12 months around Industry regulations. *"The CHC has been closely involved in these reviews and supports the assessment that there is room for improvement in the regulatory framework around Complementary Medicines. The CHC continues to actively work with the TGA and other stakeholders to develop better guidance documents and training for Industry and fully supports the recommendations being implemented."*

The Regulatory Framework for Complementary Medicines will remain 'light touch' in line with the fact that Listed, or 'AustL' products, are considered to be very low risk Medicines by the TGA, unlike OTC and Prescription Medicines. AustL products are manufactured in TGA Licensed Facilities and tested for safety and approved for sale by TGA Licensed Laboratories, resulting in a list of TGA approved ingredients.

"We strongly believe that all medicines, including Complementary Medicines, on the Australian market should be of high quality, safe, effective and readily available." Dr Morrow went on to say. *"Isolated instances of unsubstantiated claims being made, like those recently reported in the media, are just that - isolated. Compliance to current rules and regulations is the norm. More stringent regulations wouldn't necessarily stop the non-compliant minority, it would instead impede innovation and processes and increase associated costs. These instances do not mean Australian regulations need to be reviewed, but demonstrate the need for greater education and understanding by consumers,"* she concluded.

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 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 and our work, please contact us or visit the website:

www.chc.org.au

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