



Media Release

Australia New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry

CHC Welcomes Government Investment – Paving the Way for Further Support?

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) welcomes the investment by the Government into the Australia New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR), further strengthening the recommendation by the Complementary Medicines Industry for a Government backed Clinical Trials Partnership.

A joint announcement from the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP, Minister for Health and Senator the Hon. Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research highlighted the investment of over \$2.9 million into the ANZCTR. Supporting the expansion of the Registry, the funding will encourage research collaboration and enable greater public access to information about clinical trials. CHC Executive Director, Dr Wendy Morrow, noted that this is a positive step forward by the Government in the support of research and innovation in the health industry and will perhaps pave the way for additional investment in the field.

“This funding is further recognition by the Government of the importance of research and innovation in health, not only for the health industry but for those who benefit from these clinical trials. The Complementary Medicines Industry sees clinical trials as vital to the sustainability of the Industry, enhancing the existing scientific evidence base that demonstrates the efficacy of complementary medicines and reinforcing the significant impact of complementary medicines on the health of the community.” Dr Morrow went on to say.

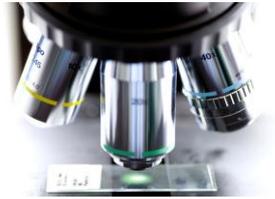
The CHC, on behalf of the Complementary Medicines Industry, formally lodged its 2012 Pre-Budget Submission with the Government. Amongst the recommendations of the submission is a four year Clinical Trials Partnership co-funded by Industry and Government. This partnership would enable new and focused investigation of the preventive health benefits of key complementary medicines in the treatment of specific chronic and preventive health conditions.

The development of a clinical trials partnership with the Government would also assist in addressing issues faced by the industry around intellectual property. Dr Morrow remarked that the results of complementary medicines clinical trials are currently not protected by law, unlike in other fields of medical research.

“This status quo is stifling innovation in an industry motivated by science. It is preventing research which is expected to deliver community access to new non-drug solutions resulting from the expected high quality research, which continues to demonstrate the significant contribution complementary medicines can make to improved community health outcomes.”

concluded Dr Morrow.

For further information on the CHC's Pre-Budget Submission and research commissioned by the CHC, visit the Political and Consumer Affairs pages of the [CHC website](http://www.chc.org.au).



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