

Media Statement



22 March 2013

CM industry strong and compliant

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) reiterates its position that the complementary medicines industry is strong, compliant and consumer driven, following airing of The Check Out program, ABC1 Thursday 21 March 2013.

“A number of points were incorrect and had no background. In particular the progress being made regarding the regulation of therapeutic goods, including complementary medicines, by the TGA along with consumer groups and industry”, said Dr Wendy Morrow, Executive Director of the CHC.

Two key points aired by The Check Out are corrected below:

“It is misleading to suggest that the TGA is funded by the industry - it is not. It is part of the [Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing](#). The TGA website outlines that it is ‘required by Government to fully recover its operating costs for all activities that fall within the scope of the Act, including the TGA’s public health responsibilities’”, stated Dr Morrow.

And the second point:

“The claim that 90% of those complementary medicines that were reviewed were found to be non-compliant, fails to refer to the 2011 ANAO Report that supports industry assertions that the statistic is misleading and incorrect in that ‘no statistically valid, general conclusion can be drawn about the state of compliance among newly-listed medicines at that time from the results of the 110 reviews as a whole’¹. The CHC believes that the statistic does, however, show that for targeted products the system is working.

The CHC has called on the TGA for more detailed information to assist industry compliance, with little success,” Dr Morrow said.

The Australian complementary medicines industry is one of the most tightly regulated in the world. There are clear compliance requirements set by the TGA, particularly labeling and indications on products.

“All advertising of complementary medicines in mainstream media is regulated and subject to approval prior to publication”, said Dr Morrow.

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¹ The Auditor General, The Auditor Report number No.3 2011-12, pg 110, Australian National Audit Office, Performance Audit, Therapeutic Goods Regulation: Complementary Medicines.