

Media Release



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CHC encourages new Government to Invest in a Healthy Australia

The new Chief Executive of the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia, Carl Gibson, used his maiden speech to call on the incoming Government to invest in a healthy Australia.

Speaking at the GoVita Conference in Alice Springs today, Mr Gibson said; “We need a new approach to healthcare, one that promotes, encourage and invests in wellness – rather than propping up an ailing illness model.”

“The CHC believes, as a former Health Minister, Mr Abbott understands the importance of supporting the health of Australians to meet current and future challenges. Complementary medicines hold a vital position in empowering Australians to take responsibility for their health, and in assisting the shift of health policy focus from a disease model to one of wellness.”

Mr Gibson told conference delegates; “I am pleased to acknowledge the Coalition’s promise to continue consultation with stakeholders, industry and health professionals to reduce red tape and encourage research and development in complementary medicines. It is essential to the health of Australians that we take steps to capture the health benefits of complementary medicines. To live up to its potential, a viable and innovative complementary medicines industry is dependent on research. We will be encouraging the new Government to incentivise Research & Development in terms of data protection and market exclusivity. The CHC will also be asking the Government to commit just 1% of National Health and Medical Research Council project funds to complementary medicine research priorities for 2014-2018.”

“Australia has world-class resources in its academic and research bodies, with the ability to be an international leader in complementary medicine research. What is needed to recognise this ability, and to recognise the full potential offered by complementary medicines, is more support for our researchers.”

“Complementary medicines offer low-risk, effective interventions that can prevent or delay the onset of a wide range of chronic conditions that already place a large burden on the Australian community. There is enormous potential offered to the health system by these products and by this industry,” he said.

“The CHC congratulates the incoming government on its success in the federal election and to each Member and Senator for appointment to their positions. The CHC looks forward to engaging with the new government on policy and legislative issues that are essential for the sustainability of this significant industry,” Mr Gibson said.

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