

# Media Release



29 January 2013

## Let's get our act together!

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) has called for industry and government to get their acts together, outlining several key initiatives in their 2013/14 pre-Budget submission to the Australian Government, released today.

“Our submission has asked for \$500,000 over two years to develop an industry-wide plan using a model similar to the Manufacturing Roundtable process. It would include a Planning Task Force involving the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), CHC, Dept. Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), and other key industry stakeholders”, said CHC Executive Director, Dr Wendy Morrow.

“Industry and government need to develop a meaningful plan and framework, that moves away from a one size fits all regulatory approach to one that recognises the differences between complementary and prescriptions medicines, respectively”.

Features of such a plan include:

- Modified product registration pathway to incentivise research and innovation
- Mechanisms to facilitate market exclusivity for a period of time to encourage innovation and support ongoing clinical trials
- Mutual recognition with comparable overseas regulators
- An equitable proportion of NHMRC funding allocated for complementary medicines research, and
- Government recognition and specific support for complementary medicines export development and import replacement.

Key recommendations from the CHC 2013/14 pre-Budget submission include:

- \$1million over two years to assist the TGA to implement regulatory reforms
- \$500,000 over two years to develop a complementary medicines industry-wide plan
- \$400,000 over two years to overcome barriers to complementary medicines innovation, and
- \$700,000 over three years to bring evidence-based Indigenous medicines to market
- \$800,000 over two years to undertake a stock-take of Indigenous medicines.

“To maintain the existing high level of community trust and growth in our industry, we need to get better coordinated. This is why we need a clear road map that works for the community, maintains Australia’s high standard of compliance and quality, and promotes industry growth and innovation”.

“Our industry is an Australian economic shining light. Now is the time to get our act together to pro-actively manage issues”, said Dr Morrow.

The CHC 2013-14 pre-Budget submission can be found [here](#).

### For Media Interviews contact

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