

Media Release

14 November 2013

CHC welcomes Smart Prevention Findings

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) welcomes the findings of a new US report, in which the authors found the use of key dietary supplements, including omega-3s, B6, B12 and folic acid, could reduce hospital costs by \$US billions per year.

Frost & Sullivan report *'Smart Prevention – Health Care Cost Savings Resulting from the Targeted Use of Dietary Supplements'* covers eight supplement regimens across four chronic health conditions, including coronary heart disease (CHD), age-related eye disease, diabetes and osteoporosis. The report demonstrates the importance of taking dietary supplements as a means to combat unsustainable health care costs, and as a means for high-risk individuals to reduce their chances of having to deal with potentially costly disease-related events.

Australia faces similar challenges to other economically developed countries in relation to chronic disease, with preventive measures increasingly seen as essential in reducing this burden¹.

As the peak industry body in Australia for vitamins, minerals and supplements – known as complementary medicines – the CHC represents an industry that is devoted to improving the health of the Australian community through the promotion of sustainable health and wellbeing.

In light of the US report findings – and of Australian economic report findings, such as in the 2010 National Institute of Complementary Medicine's *'Cost effectiveness of complementary medicines'* – Mr Carl Gibson, CEO of the CHC calls on the Government to support the research effort to fully realise the contribution complementary medicines can make to the preventive health agenda.

“In the recent National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants announcement, only 0.2 per cent of funding supported complementary medicine research. Additional funding support would go a long way in helping the industry show how it can assist in the move towards a more cost-effective Australian healthcare system.”

“To date, there has been no focus on the positive benefits that complementary medicines can bring to the table. The complementary medicines industry can help to deliver preventive health objectives, and industry is keen to work with the Government to achieve this,” Mr Gibson said.

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¹ Australian National Preventive Health Agency – State of Preventive Health 2013

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