

## Media Release

31 January 2014

### CHC Applauds Swisse for Independent Research Support

The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) congratulates well-known industry player, Swisse, for supporting independent complementary medicine research through the provision of \$15 million over six years to the new Complementary Medicines Evidence Centre (CMEC) at La Trobe University.

Chief Executive Officer of the CHC, Mr Carl Gibson, said that it was commendable to see Swisse becoming the founding partner of CMEC, and delivering this contribution to the Australian research sector.

“A viable and innovative complementary medicines industry is dependent on research to support quality, safety, efficacy, and cost-effectiveness. This funding from Swisse highlights the willingness of industry to work with researchers and with government to continue to grow the body of evidence for complementary medicines.”

With ~16,000 published trials on complementary medicines over the previous 30 years, we have come a long way since the first ever recorded clinical trial (exploring Vitamin C supplementation for the treatment of scurvy). However, more research is needed to prove the full potential of complementary medicines in contributing to the Australian health care system.

“The goals of this initiative, including assisting doctors in making informed decisions about complementary medicines, are perfectly aligned with the intentions of the *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023*; to harness the potential that complementary medicines can make to health and wellness and to the appropriate integration of complementary medicines into the health care system,” said Mr Gibson.

“In addition to the continued commitment by industry to expand on the existing clinical trial data, it is both gratifying and exciting to see Australian universities responding to consumers’ need to know more about the benefits of complementary medicines.”

“As highlighted in the CHC’s 2014/15 Federal Pre-Budget Submission, and given that less than half of one per cent of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding supported complementary medicine research in 2013, now is a pivotal time for Government to also support our Australian complementary medicines research resources,” Mr Gibson concluded.

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