

## Media Release

30 August 2016

### **CMA Says Online Buyer Beware**

Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) has today reiterated the warning by Australia's medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), of the dangers of purchasing weight loss medicines online, especially from unknown overseas websites.

Mr Carl Gibson, ceo of CMA said: "The importance of the 'online buyer beware' message cannot be stressed enough and applies to all complementary medicine products. Products purchased online from overseas are not subject to the same regulations as those enforced in Australia, which means there may be no surety that the product contains what it says it does. Online purchases should only be made on the recommendation of a qualified healthcare professional or from a known and reputable source."

"Any products that are medicinal in nature but not listed on the TGA's Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods may not have been made under Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) principles, and may not meet the quality and safety standards expected by Australian consumers. Such products may have elevated levels of heavy metals, pesticides, or microbial contaminants, as these are not screened for in many countries. They may also contain low levels of stated herbal active ingredients, the wrong herb entirely, or be adulterated with other unknown ingredients."

"Australia has some of the most stringent regulations for the manufacture of complementary medicines, including licensing and inspecting manufacturers for both domestic supply and for export to ensure that products meet the high standard of GMP. Manufacturers of natural health care products in Australia have a respected reputation for quality and purity," said Mr Gibson.

The TGA's media release can be found [here](#).

**ENDS**

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