



## Media Release

### CHC Welcomes New Cabinet Appointments and Focus on Manufacturing

**The Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) welcomes the new Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP and also applauds the Government's focus on Manufacturing, reflected in the cabinet reshuffle.**

With the Hon. Tanya Plibersek set to take the reins as the new Minister for Health and Ageing the CHC looks forward to continuing the mature health and regulatory policy discourse on Complementary Medicine products. Driving issues around the streamlining of the regulatory burden on low risk products, pro-innovation regulatory support and implementing tougher enforcement of Industry guidelines and rules, the CHC is keen to work closely with Ms Plibersek, on behalf of the Industry, to significantly and in a cost effective manner improve the population health outcomes of the Nation.

*"Ms Plibersek's previous ministerial experience equips her well for the move into the area of Health and Ageing,"* commented Dr Wendy Morrow, Executive Director of the CHC. *"Her commitment to the community in her previous role will be of major significance when managing this key portfolio. The health and wellbeing of a progressively ageing Australian population is becoming increasingly important, so there is a crucial role to be played by the new Minister in the health of the Nation."* Dr Morrow went on to say.

The CHC has greatly valued the balanced policy support provided to all health industry participants by the outgoing Minister for Health and Ageing over the last 5 years which has seen her managing the portfolio during a particularly challenging period, with the Global Financial Crisis and 5 major TGA reviews over the last 18 months. *"We would like to congratulate Ms Roxon on her appointment as Attorney-General. As the first female in Australia to take on this position, it is one to which her background makes her well suited."* Dr Morrow concluded.

The CHC is also extremely pleased to note the focus on Manufacturing reflected in the latest Gillard Government Cabinet.

The appointment of Senator the Hon. Kim Carr as the Minister for Manufacturing was strongly welcomed by manufacturers in the Complementary Medicines Industry.

*"As an Industry we look forward to contributing to policy development in this area and supporting relevant working groups on issues concerning local manufacturing, where appropriate and relevant,"* commented Dr Morrow.

The Complementary Medicines Industry generates ~\$2 billion in revenue and products are available at more than 30,000 outlets across the country. There are now 59 TGA registered manufacturing facilities around Australia and the CHC estimates that the Industry provides 5000 highly skilled direct jobs and 60,000 indirect jobs in supporting industries.

The Australian Complementary Medicines Industry also exports to countries including: Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, UK and USA. *"We are continuing to develop greater share in these markets and also looking at opportunities in new markets,"* commented Dr Morrow, *"therefore manufacturing of Complementary Medicines in Australia is a key priority"*

**Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia**

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for Industry and one that we look forward to further developing with the support of this new focus by Government” she went on to say.

Dr Morrow also welcomed other cabinet appointments, including the new Minister for Industry and Innovation, the Hon. Greg Combet, and the new Minister for Science and Research, Senator the Hon. Chris Evans. *“The Complementary Medicines Industry has invested heavily for decades in leading edge science and research across the University and Higher Education sector as to the effects and evidence for natural compounds and health conditions. This investment continues to escalate with the increasing demand for non-pharmaceutical products to improve population health outcomes.”* Dr Morrow commented. *“We therefore look forward to working with the new Ministers on their portfolios with the goal, amongst others, of resolving the regulatory issues currently stifling innovation of low risk products within a science based industry,”* she added.

*“We are also pleased to welcome the elevation to Cabinet of the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon. Mark Butler. With recent research on treatment of mental illness with specific Complementary Medicines showing very encouraging evidence of effectiveness, this could significantly contribute to population health outcomes and we look forward to exploring this with the new Minister.”* concluded Dr Morrow.

For more information about the CHC please visit our website or contact us directly: <http://www.chc.org.au/>

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