



Mr Stephen Palethorpe
Inquiry Secretary
Community Affairs References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Re: Inquiry into the Regulatory Standards for the Approval of Medical Devices

Thank you for the opportunity for the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to make a submission to the Community Affairs References Committee inquiry into the regulatory standards for the approval of medical devices.

Patients expect that treatments, procedures and medical technologies are safe and effective, based on the highest quality scientific evidence. Research plays a critical role in informing the Government's health policy reforms, and the Government's decision making around financial support for new and existing therapies, pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

Since 2009, NHMRC has committed \$78.9 million to support investigator initiated comparative effectiveness research, designed to inform health-care decisions by providing evidence on the effectiveness, benefits and potential harms of different treatment options. Over the same period, an amount of \$4.6 million has been allocated to research specifically on medical devices for that purpose.

It is important that the approval of new medical devices in Australian continues to be based on scientific evidence derived from health and medical research. NHMRC will continue to support the best quality research, selected by expert peer review that will strengthen the evidence-base and help inform the Government's health policy. I would be happy to discuss this with the Committee should the opportunity arise.

Yours sincerely

Professor Warwick Anderson
Chief Executive Officer

2 August 2011

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