



Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

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Mr David Sullivan
Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Sullivan

Re: Ongoing scrutiny into the implementation of the Defence Trade Controls Act 2012

Thank you for your letter of 11 March 2014 providing an update of the Committee's work on ongoing scrutiny into the implementation of the *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012* (the Act). As you may be aware, I am, on behalf of NHMRC, a member of the Defence Export Control Steering Group chaired by Professor Ian Chubb, the Chief Scientist.

NHMRC is pleased with the progress this Group is making towards implementing the Act and would like to take the opportunity to advise the Committee of NHMRC's role in the implementation of the Act and to provide an update of progress.

With the input of a working group NHMRC has drafted a supplement to the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)* (the Code). This supplement, will be used to provide guidance to universities, medical research institutes, hospitals and the private sector on the dissemination of research findings which may be of concern with respect to national security, or to public health and safety. NHMRC has also developed a second document to provide more specific guidance on dual use research of concern, requirements of the *Defence Trade Controls Act (2012)* and other relevant legislation.

The draft supplement is being used in, and refined through, the pilot projects being supported through the Defence Trade Controls Office. NHMRC is currently seeking feedback on these documents, will incorporate this feedback along with other changes necessitated by any amendments to the legislation.

Yours sincerely

Professor Warwick Anderson AM
Chief Executive Officer

21 March 2014