



Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council

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Dr Kathleen Dermody
Committee Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Dr Dermody

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

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 2013 providing an update of the Committee's work on ongoing scrutiny into the implementation of the *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012* (the Act). I 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.

Currently our CEO Professor Warwick Anderson is a member of the Strengthened Export Controls Steering Group (SECSG) and NHMRC has now established a Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) Working Committee. The newly formed NHMRC DURC working committee will develop a supplement to the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)* (the Code). This supplement will provide guidance to universities, medical research institutes and private companies on research that is considered Dual Use Research and Dual Use Research of Concern in the context of the Act and will reflect existing industry, national and international codes on the responsible management of Dual Use Research. It is anticipated that the draft supplement will be available for use in the ongoing pilot projects which will be used to assess the workability of the provisions of the Act and Regulations. An initial meeting of the working group will take place in May 2013. The draft supplement will be considered at this time.

Our agency's perspective and activities towards implementation will be captured as part of the SECSG work and so NHMRC will not be providing a separate response to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Clive Morris
Head
Research Policy Development Taskforce
6 May 2013