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Dear Joint Standing Committee on Treaties,

Re. Inquiry into the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

SureScreen Australia has established a supply agreement with SureScreen Diagnostics, a UK company with 25 years' experience in the manufacture of diagnostic tests founded on research and development with significant institutional and industry alliances in the UK.

The recent global demand for lateral flow tests has underscored the need for Australian Government to secure domestic production of these essential diagnostic devices. The shifting global geopolitical landscape further underscores the need for the Australian Government to support and strengthen the domestic supply chain and health security for such devices.

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) supports the initiatives developed by SSA, specifically to:

1. Supply invitro diagnostic tests for the screening of disease, including COVID-19 and variants, and prevention of illness and public infection in Australia and Asia-Pacific region.
2. Establish a manufacturing site in Australia to localise the supply of in vitro diagnostic tests and export opportunity to UK and APAC region.
3. Strengthen domestic and international engagements and facilitate a knowledge sharing environment for the collaboration of medical research and development and innovative solutions to market surveillance observations.

While Australia is recognised as having one of the best healthcare systems in the world, initiatives to support the effective regulation, harmonisation, and security of medical devices to expedite supply, including local manufacturing, and improve the response to potential health threats, including epidemics, will require engagements across federal and state government agencies.

SureScreen Australia welcomes the focus on medical devices and public health cooperation between Australia, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and encourages the Australian Government to support organisations navigate and expedite the technical and regulatory processes in order to promote trade and economic growth in the development, manufacturing, and innovation of advanced medical devices.

Respectfully yours,



Troy W. Stewart | Managing Director
SureScreen Australia Pty Limited

