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14 October 2010

Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Re: Inquiry into *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2010*

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) supports the *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2010* and the submission made by Medicines Australia to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee.

The main purpose of the *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2010* is to achieve a more economically sustainable Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The Bill enacts changes in legislated pricing arrangements for medicines listed on the PBS, delivering savings to Government and consumers whilst providing pricing certainty for industry.

These changes are part of broader package of reforms designed to ensure the sustainability of the PBS, enshrined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commonwealth and Medicines Australia on behalf of the research based pharmaceutical industry in Australia.

GSK is fully committed to working with Government to ensure that these savings are generated as soon as practicable, so that the PBS continues to have the capacity to provide existing and new innovative medicines to all Australians, now and in the future.

I therefore ask that the Committee:

- support the recommendations made by Medicines Australia on behalf of the research based pharmaceutical industry in Australia; and
- recommend that Parliament passes the *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme) Bills 2010* before the end of 2010.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or clarification of any matter presented in this submission.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Waterhouse
General Manager
GlaxoSmithKline Australia & New Zealand