

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

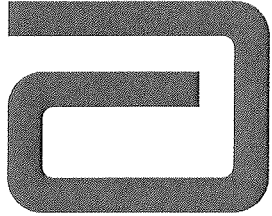
**Inquiry into the National Health
Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits
Scheme) Bill 2010**

SUBMISSION

SUBMISSION NUMBER: 23

SUBMITTER

Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd



20 October 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs –
Legislation Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

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

Dear Ms Bleaser,

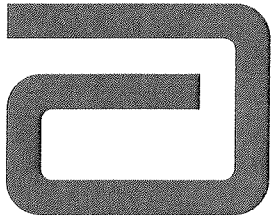
Abbott Australasia (Abbott) is pleased to be able to take this opportunity to provide a submission to the above inquiry. We are writing to indicate our support for the submission supplied to this Inquiry by Medicines Australia.

The stated aim of the *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2010* is to achieve a more economically sustainable Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. It is the view of Abbott that the provisions included in this Bill will assist the Government in achieving this objective.

In addition the changes contained in this legislation form part of broader reforms outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commonwealth Government and Medicines Australia. The implementation of this MoU will assist in ensuring the ongoing viability of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Australia by providing pricing and policy stability over the life of the agreement.

Abbott is a global health care company that has operated in Australia for more than 70 years. As a supplier of both patented single brand products and multi-brand off-patent products Abbott is pleased to support the implementation of this MoU. While its implementation will result in price reductions for some Abbott products, Abbott believes overall the MoU will lead to a healthier, more sustainable Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme that will benefit not only the Government and Industry but most importantly consumers.





Abbott is committed to working with the Government to ensure the savings outlined in the MoU are delivered and that Australians will continue to have access to world class products in a timely and affordable manner.

I would ask that the Committee support the position outlined in Medicine Australia's submission to this Inquiry and support the passage of the *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2010* through the Parliament.

Should the Committee require any additional information regarding Abbott Australasia's position we would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

Dean Phizacklea
General Manager
Abbott Australasia