

To THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of concerned community pharmacists and citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House: That the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) intends to establish a compulsory website as a source of Consumer Medicine Information (CMI's) and Product Information (PI's), and that this website will unnecessarily complicate and duplicate the existing streamlined provision of such information via the dispensing process and integrated with the dispensary software in a community pharmacy. It will make it less likely that consumers of medicines will receive this CMI information on their medications. There is a risk that manufacturers of medicines will discontinue the current distribution system via the dispensary software and the current program of enhancements to the CMIs (e.g. audio, Braille, large print) may be under threat. The establishment of the TGA website as proposed will incur unnecessary expense to taxpayers, and make the provision of CMI's less likely because of the inability of the website to deliver the information directly to the point at which the medicines are dispensed.

We therefore ask the House to: Urge the Minister for Health and Ageing and the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing to direct that the TGA utilise the existing system and that the establishment of any TGA website should not jeopardise the viability of the existing system,