



Attention: National media

Agreement on Therapeutic products and Convention on Tobacco Control

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, chaired by Dr Andrew Southcott MP, is conducting an inquiry into the Agreement between Australia and New Zealand to establish a joint scheme for the regulation of therapeutic products, and the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

Since the proposed treaty actions were tabled in Parliament on 30 March 2004, the Committee has authorised submissions concerning the Agreement on therapeutic products from the Australian Medical Association, Medicines Australia, and ACIL Tasman on behalf of the Australian Self-Medication Industry.

The proposed Agreement on therapeutic products aims to protect public health and safety by establishing a Scheme between Australia and New Zealand for the regulation of the quality, safety and performance of therapeutic products, and their manufacture, supply, import, export and promotion. Therapeutic products include medical devices, prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines and complementary medicines.

The Scheme will be administered by a new single regulatory agency, replacing the existing Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority.

The Committee has also authorised a submission from the Cancer Council Australia and the National Heart Foundation concerning Australia's proposed ratification of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

A **public hearing** will be held for the inquiry into the proposed treaty actions in Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra on **Monday, 10 May 2004** between **10.00am and 10.40am**.

Further information on the inquiry, is available on the Committee's website:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/>

MEDIA CONTACTS

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