



TT 30 March
Submission 5

Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Southcott

Thank you for your letter of 1 April 2004 inviting the ACT Government to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties inquiries into the *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand for the Establishment of a Joint Scheme for the Regulation of Therapeutic Products*, and on the *World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control*.

The ACT Government has the following brief comments.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand for the Establishment of a Joint Scheme for the Regulation of Therapeutic Products

The ACT Government supports binding treaty action in regard to the Agreement and fully supports the establishment of a joint agency to regulate therapeutic products manufactured and distributed in either country.

The National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee (NDPSC), which includes representatives of all States and Territories, the Commonwealth, and New Zealand, as well as specialist experts in toxicology has, through its Trans-Tasman Harmonisation Working Party, developed a harmonised approach to the scheduling of drugs, medicines and poisons between Australia and New Zealand over the past five or so years.

The National Coordinating Committee on Therapeutic Goods (NCCTG) is the policy making body for the NDPSC, and facilitates the harmonisation of legislative and administrative controls on therapeutic goods and poisons in both countries. The NCCTG comprises representatives of the Commonwealth (Therapeutic Goods Administration – TGA), State and Territory health authorities, and an observer from the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

Phone (02) 6205 0104 Fax (02) 6205 0433



The NCCTG supports the joint venture, and all representatives have agreed to the establishment of a single body modelled on the TGA to oversee the harmonised regulation of therapeutic products in both countries.

The ACT Government, which is represented on both the NDPSC and the NCCTG, has been involved in discussions about this treaty from its genesis and fully supports the treaty between the two countries.

World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

The adoption of the FCTC is a major step forward in combating the world-wide "tobacco epidemic", which is predicted to lead to the loss of 10 million lives a year by the year 2030. The FCTC is the world's first global tobacco control treaty and is expected to have an especially significant impact in countries that currently have little or no tobacco control legislation and have not devoted significant resources to anti-tobacco measures.

The ACT Government contributed to the development of Australia's national position in the negotiation of the FCTC through Commonwealth-State-Territory consultations. The ACT is comfortable with the scope and application of the Convention, and supports binding treaty action.

I hope that these comments are of assistance to the Joint Committee in its inquiries into these treaties.

Yours sincerely



Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister

22 APR 2004