

GMiA

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*Generic Medicines Industry
Association Pty Ltd*
ABN 19 096 009 540

PO BOX 12 Balmain NSW 2041
Telephone 02 9818 8033
Facsimile 02 9818 8565

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits – Cost Recovery) Bill 2008

Thank you for the invitation to make a written submission to the Senate Community Affairs Committee on the above Bill.

The Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) represents sponsors of generic prescription medicines listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS). Its members comprise Alphapharm, Apotex, GenePharm, Hospira, Sandoz and Sigma Pharmaceuticals. These companies supply over 90% of generic medicines dispensed in Australia and over 30% of all prescriptions dispensed under the PBS. Since 1995, generic substitution has resulted in substantially more than \$3 billion savings to the PBS.

Whilst the GMiA, as a general principle, does not support the introduction of PBS cost recovery, members nevertheless believe that the proposed fees for generics reflect the level of Department of Health and Ageing activity involved in the listing of these products on the PBS.

However, the GMiA will resist any other cost recovery mechanisms or increases to proposed fees as they could prejudice the ability of GMiA members to cost effectively bring generic medicines to market.

The generic industry delivers many millions of dollars' savings annually to the PBS and any listing or other fees for generic medicines must reflect the benefits that these savings deliver to the PBS and Australian consumers.

Yours sincerely


Di Ford
Executive Director