



sanofi aventis

Because health matters

22 July 2008

Senator Claire Moore
Chair, Senate Community Affairs Committee
Senator for Queensland
PO BOX 907, Fortitude Valley Post Shop
FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006



Dear Senator Moore,

I am writing on behalf of sanofi-aventis Australia to strongly endorse the attached submission from Medicines Australia to the **Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into the National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical and Other Benefits-Cost Recovery) Bill 2008**.

Sanofi-aventis is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, dedicated to the treatment and prevention of disease through the discovery, development and supply of innovative pharmaceuticals. Our company is a leader in many major therapeutic areas including cardiovascular diseases, bone diseases, oncology, central nervous system, diabetes, allergies and infectious diseases and vaccines.

Our company provides over 200 products and presentations listed on the PBS (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) and we are concerned that the introduction of cost-recovery fees for submissions to list medicines may impact our ability to provide patients with access to new medicines and new indications. In particular, we are concerned about the impact of high submission fees on those medicines for low-return, small population group products, such as medicines that come in syrup form for paediatric and elderly patient use. Under the current regulatory process, these presentations do not have "orphan" status and would therefore be liable for cost recovery fees.

In addition, we would question why the cost recovery proposal does not include any improvements or efficiencies to the process for listing medicines on the PBS. We note that it currently takes an average of three submissions (or up to \$383,500 under the proposed fee structure) to secure a recommendation for listing a medicine.

Sanofi-aventis Australia believes that the proposed cost recovery fees for listing medicines on the PBS are not appropriate and that this measure should not proceed.

Please feel free to contact me on (02) 9666 2374 if you would like to discuss this issue or if I can provide you with any further information.

Yours sincerely

Paul Lindsay
Public Affairs Director