

April 13, 2004

Secretary  
Senate Select Committee on the Free Trade Agreement  
between Australia and the United States of America  
Suite S1.30.1  
The Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Madam / Sir,

I have particular concerns about the impact of the AUSTUS-FTA on our  
Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

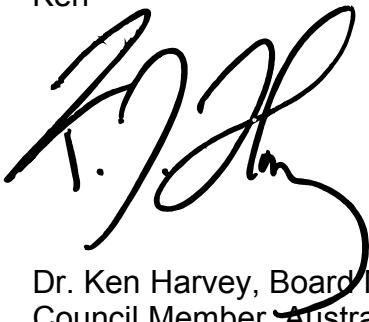
I have published an article outlining my concerns which I should like your Committee  
to take into consideration. This is available at:

<http://www.econ.usyd.edu.au/drawingboard/digest/0403/harvey.html>

I have also been invited to speak on this topic at public meetings held in both  
Melbourne and Sydney (details below). I have appended an outline of these talks for  
your committee's consideration.

Please note that this material has been prepared in my capacity as a concerned  
Australian citizen; it does not necessarily represent the views of any organisation  
with which I am affiliated.

Cheers  
Ken

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Harvey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Ken Harvey, Board Member, Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd.;  
Council Member, Australian Consumers Association;  
Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health, La Trobe University;  
<http://users.bigpond.net.au/medreach/>

PUBLIC MEETING - "THE US-AUSTRALIAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND THE TRANS-TASMAN AGREEMENT: Ensuring that the needs of health consumers are recognised in these policy changes".

Chronic Illness Alliance, Health Issues Centre, Public Health Association of Australia & Doctors Reform Society (Victoria)

THURSDAY, 1 APRIL 2004 5-7 PM at La Trobe University City Campus 215 Franklin Street, Melbourne Ground Floor Lecturer Theatre Room Number G.04

Enquiries: Christine Walker Ph: (03) 9479 3222 Ph: (03) 9805 9126

AGENDA FACILITATOR: Christine Walker, CEO, Chronic Illness Alliance

5.00 P.M. Jo Watson, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS and the consumer representative on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority (PBPA). Topic: The US-Australian Free Trade Agreement and the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement: what consumers need to know.

5.15 P.M. Questions from the audience

5.25 P.M. Ken Harvey, Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health, La Trobe University; Board Member, Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd; Council Member, Australian Consumers Association. Topic: Pharmaceuticals Benefits and Free Trade: Trouble Ahead for Subsidised Medicines in Australia?

5.40 P.M. Questions from the audience

5.50 P.M. Fiona Woodward, Medicines Australia Topic: The Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement: what it is and the role it will play in access and cost of pharmaceuticals

6.05 P.M. Questions from the audience 6.15 P.M. BREAK (light refreshments provided)

6.30 P.M. FACILITATED DISCUSSION What issues need to be addressed for consumers and health professionals and what are the strategies we will employ to have them recognised

TRANSPORT & PARKING Public Transport Access: Trains: Flagstaff Station on the corners of La Trobe St & William St or Melbourne Central on the cnr of La Trobe St and Elizabeth St. Trams: 19,57,59 from Elizabeth Street Terminals. Buses: 220, 232 Terminus Flinders Lane and Flinders Street. Parking: There is meter parking around the Campus and also many commercial facilities very close by (e.g. Park Safe Pty Ltd and also Queen Victoria Market)

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PUBLIC MEETING - The George Institute. "No Such Thing as Free Trade: What will be the impact of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme?"

Panel members have been invited to speak about the potential impact of the FTA on the supply, pricing and regulation of pharmaceutical medicines, both in Australia and the region.

This will be followed by an interactive discussion, with speakers invited to respond to questions from the audience.

Venue: The Veterinary Science Conference Centre, University of Sydney Enter from Parramatta Rd, through Veterinary Hospital Clinic entrance, where limited parking is available at \$6 (machines take \$1 and \$2 coins only)

Date: Tuesday 6 April 2004

Time: 5:30-7:00pm followed by refreshments

Panel members:

Ruth Lopert, Medical Advisor, Pharmaceutical Benefits Branch, Commonwealth Department of Health & Aging (Cancelled);

Ken Harvey, School of Public Health, La Trobe University;

Kieran Schneemann, CEO, Medicines Australia (Cancelled);

Glenn Salkeld, Health Economist, University of Sydney;

Andrea Mant, Pharmaceutical Benefits Access Committee.

Chair: Stephen MacMahon, Principal Director, The George Institute,  
<http://www.thegeorgeinstitute.org/>

RSVP: Kate Anderson, by 1 April 2004 to [kanderson@thegeorgeinstitute.org](mailto:kanderson@thegeorgeinstitute.org)

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