



**Researched Medicines Industry
Association of New Zealand Incorporated**

**Submission on
New Zealand Public Health and Disability
Amendment Bill 2010**

June 2010

1. Introduction

This submission is from the Researched Medicines Industry Association of New Zealand (RMI). Level 8, Prime Property Towers, 86 – 90 Lambton Quay, Wellington. Contact person: Denise Wood (04) 499 4277 or dwood@rmianz.co.nz

The RMI represents prescription medicines manufacturers in New Zealand and supports a healthcare system in New Zealand that is patient-centric and focused on achieving the best health outcomes for all New Zealanders. For a list of our members please see http://www.rmianz.co.nz/about_members.php

Our members' international reputations rely heavily on the medicines they supply meeting robust requirements for the safety and quality. The responsibility for the safety of our medicines extends throughout the supply chain, and includes the safe use of medicines in communities and hospitals.

2. Context

We appreciate having the opportunity to submit to this consultation.

The relevant section of the Bill we would like to submit on is the portion that establishes the Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC).

We would like to express our support for the establishment of the new HQSC, as a body that will oversee national safety and quality initiatives in a coordinated manner.

We believe that the new commission has the opportunity to enhance the way in which medicines are used to improve people's health, reduce suffering and prolong life.

We are concerned that in the past, safety initiatives have been approached in a disjointed manner resulting in many useful initiatives not achieving their full potential benefits. This "silo" approach to planning has also led to initiatives being planned without adequate input from the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders. The lack of consultation has included proposals being planned that have the potential to impose substantial costs on the industry or require major logistical changes.

We believe that our industry has substantial expertise to offer in developing robust safety and quality assurance processes. This expertise may be used for the benefit of the health system, and we would be eager to partner with the health system to bring this expertise to bear on the safety issues faced in New Zealand. When considering safety initiatives, it is important for relevant stakeholders to be involved during the early planning phases in order to derive the maximum

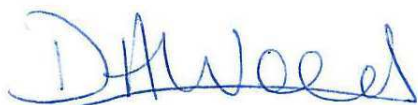
potential benefit. Where the industry is invited to provide input to a consultation on a safety initiative (during the final stages of the planning phase) the ability to actively participate and add value is seriously diminished.

We request that where the HQSC is involved in developing a project that may impact on the pharmaceutical industry, that it specifically considers the input of the industry and other relevant stakeholders during the early project planning phases.

3. RMI position

We submit that the Health Quality and Safety Commission should be required to consult with relevant stakeholders when planning projects that may impact such stakeholders. The form of consultation should be that stakeholders are invited to provide input at the early planning phases of major projects rather than only once the planning is complete.

Yours sincerely



Denise Wood
Chief Executive Officer
Researched Medicines Industry Association
18 June 2010