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30 March 2012

Mr Simon McKeon  
Chairman  
Strategic Review of Health & Medical Research  
PO Box 4226  
MANUKA ACT 2603

**Re: *Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia***

Dear Mr McKeon

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia*. Enclosed is a submission from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Australia.

GSK appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the development of the 10-year strategic plan for Australia's health and medical research sector. As a research-based pharmaceutical company, the work that we do touches on many aspects of Australia's medical research spectrum: from early phase research and drug discovery, right through to clinical trials and commercialisation of innovative new medicines.

We are downstream members of the medicine supply chain, so are keenly interested in strengthening Australia's capacity and capability in creating new discoveries and in efficiently developing these into medicines and treatments for patients.

Ultimately, the medicines we develop play an important role in the health and wellbeing of Australian patients. GSK medicines treat major disease areas such as asthma, virus control, infections, mental health, and diabetes, and we are pioneering new treatments for complex diseases like cancer. We are also the largest supplier of childhood vaccines to the *National Immunisation Program*.

All Australians benefit from a strong medical research sector. The success of this sector has significant flow on effects – improving health outcomes for patients, increasing productivity, and creating and sustaining innovative industries like the pharmaceutical industry. Indeed, the societal and economic benefits of pharmaceuticals all stem from an initial investment into health and medical research.

As you know, Australia is home to some of the best researchers, healthcare professionals and medical pioneers in the world. Our world-class research infrastructure and a stable socio-economic environment make Australia an attractive environment for medical research and innovation.

Health and medical research is also a growth industry, with an outstanding record of achievement in both monetary terms and through returns to our society. New discoveries are now our best defence against future challenges such as the ageing population and the increased burden of chronic disease. It is therefore critical to ensure that adequate public support is in place to enable Australia to bring these discoveries to the world.

Both independently and through Medicines Australia we urge the Review Panel to consider the significance of the pharmaceutical industry in our health and medical research sector and to include policy settings that support a vibrant pharmaceutical industry in Australia as part of the 10-year strategic plan.

We support the recommendations made by Medicines Australia on behalf of the research-based pharmaceutical industry and welcome the opportunity to provide further information to support development of the 10-year strategic plan. In addition, I give consent for GSK's submission to be made publically available.

If you have any questions about statements in this submission, please contact GSK's Senior Policy Adviser, Emily Forrest, on (03) 9413 7269 or by email at [emily.a.forrest@gsk.com](mailto:emily.a.forrest@gsk.com).

Yours faithfully



**Andrew Yeates**  
Medical Director  
GlaxoSmithKline Australia