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AUSTRALIAN SELF-MEDICATION INDUSTRY

BETTER HEALTH THROUGH RESPONSIBLE SELF-MEDICATION

29 May 2001

Cost Recovery Inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2
Collins St East
Melbourne Vic 8003



Dear Mrs Owens

I am responding on behalf of ASMI to the Commission's draft report on cost recovery.

ASMI is in agreement with the draft and hopes that the principles your report sets out will soon be Government policy.

We do suggest that the decision-trees and guidelines you have proposed should be incorporated in legislation—either a statute or disallowable legislative instrument. By this means, successive governments will have to face the discipline of clear rules about what they can charge for and what is a public good. It should go without saying that decisions under the legislation should be appealable and the merits (AAT) and legal and process issues (ADJR).

In our supplementary submission, ASMI drew attention to its concerns about the proposed sale and lease-back of the TGA building. The Department of Finance appears determined to push ahead with the sale and industry will therefore resist that by whatever means we can.

Yours sincerely

Zephania Jordan
Scientific Director