



DR RICHARD DI NATALE

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Senator for Victoria

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24/04/2019

Elizabeth de Somer
Chief Executive Officer
Medicines Australia

Dear Ms de Somer,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to Medicine Australia's election priorities.

The Greens agree that access to effective and modern treatments is an essential part of Australia's health system and as such that we should prioritise ensuring Australians have access to the treatment they need. The Greens believe the PBAC should be free to work without political interference. We would support the listing of all positive PBAC recommendations of a new medicine within six months of agreement on pricing. We would consider supporting improvements to post PBAC listing processes and timeframes as described in the Strategic Agreement, and at least annual reporting on the achievement of that metric.

With regard to the Strategic Agreement and the National Medicines Policy: the Australian Greens support arrangements and agreements which allow all people to have access to the resources and opportunities for good health and wellbeing. We would consider the next strategic agreement and a potential review of the national medicines policy in light of these principles.

Turning to clinical trial harmonisation, the Australian Greens support the call for the next Commonwealth Government to put on the COAG agenda within 12-months a process for harmonisation of clinical trials.

Finally, we note that the conclusions of the Senate inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures) Bill 2018 and that the bill lapsed. The Greens did not support the measures in this bill, including the intensity threshold. We also note with concern that the government announced in the Budget that it intended to cut a further \$1.35 billion from the R&D tax incentive but did not outline how this would occur.

The Australian Greens have opposed cuts to the R&D Tax incentives under previous Labor and Liberal governments and will continue to push for R&D support to be expanded. The Greens recognise the importance of health and medical research and manufacturing and will continue to support reforms that benefit the sector.



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Once again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to your submission. I look forward to continuing to work with you to progress these issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Richard Di Natale'.

Senator Richard Di Natale

Leader of the Australian Greens & Senator for Victoria



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