

Labelling and Packaging of Cough and Cold Medicines
Stakeholder and Public Consultation October – December 2009
Submission received from Mr Bruce Hamilton

Dear TGA,

I would like to voice my disbelief at the poorly informed decision to ban the sale of OTC cold and cough preparations to under 6 year-olds from 1 July 2010. Since when has the U.K, Canada or, God forbid, NZ set the agenda for what should happen in Australia? Australia boasts a World's best practice system of scheduling for these medications to ensure they are used appropriately and safely. Anyone who claims that they "lack efficacy" has clearly never had children of their own to demonstrate their benefit. All this decision will achieve is to force parents to estimate dosages for younger children, a dangerous situation that I have encountered many times since the ban on sub 2 year-old cold and flu medications. Australia should be promoting our ability to use these treatments safely and effectively not jumping on the bandwagon of over-seas governments who have lost control of the way these products are sold and used. Can the TGA really expect to maintain even a shred of credibility when they continue to allow the sale of potent and potentially dangerous medications like phenylephrine, paracetamol and ibuprofen through grocery channels with no advice or checks yet ban the fully advised sale of valuable and beneficial medications through pharmacy.

Get real.