

Ms Rebecca Doolan  
Project Manager  
Labelling and Packaging Review  
Therapeutic Goods Administration  
[labellingreview@tga.gov.au](mailto:labellingreview@tga.gov.au)

Dear Rebecca

### **Invitation to participate in the labelling and packaging review.**

Thank you for your invitation to participate in the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Labelling and Packaging review.

The Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) is the peak, national non-government organisation representing and promoting the interests of the Australian mental health sector. The membership of the MHCA includes national organisations of mental health services, consumers, carers, special needs groups, clinical service providers, community and private mental health service providers, national research institutions and state/territory peak bodies.

The MHCA endorses the recommendations to change the presentation of information on the labels and packaging of medicines as outlined in the *TGA Labelling and Packaging Review Consultation Paper Version 1 May 2102*.

In addition to endorsing these changes, we would like to highlight the importance of consumers and carers being able to obtain appropriate consumer medicine information (CMI) about the medicine they are using. The MHCA acknowledges that amongst the reasons for not supplying printed CMI as part of packaging is that it is difficult to keep printed CMI material up to date. However a cost effective solution to this would be the inclusion in the packaging of a reference to a source of current CMI.

Therefore, the MHCA makes the following further recommendations to the review:

1. Medicine packaging and medicines information (where it is supplied) should display a reference to a website address where CMI can be obtained. For example the package should say something like:

For Consumer Medicine Information go to

<http://www.tga.gov.au/consumers/information-medicines-cmi.htm>.

2. Although it is mandatory that medicine packaging for injectable medicines include an insert giving more information on the medicine, it is not always the case that this information is developed for consumers of the medicine. Therefore the MHCA proposes that medicine packaging for injectable medicines should:
- include a CMI leaflet or a reference to a website to search for CMI, and
  - contain an alert notifying the health care professional of the importance of passing this information on to the consumer who is receiving the medicine.

Yours sincerely

*M Cantwell:*

Melanie Cantwell  
Deputy CEO  
24 August 2012