

Code Review Panel Communiqué

The Code Review Panel (CRP) held its second formal meeting on 14 October 2013. The following members attended the meeting:

Dr Dominic Barnes	Shire Australia (Chairman)
Ms Daniella Dickson	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Ms Sonja Eibl	Bayer
Mr Aaron Guttmann	Bristol-Myers Squibb
Dr Ken Harvey	CHF
Mr Paul Hodgkinson	Novartis
Dr Robyn Langham	Australian Medical Association
Ms Shane McSpedden	Pfizer Australia
Dr Beata Niechoda	Shire Australia
Dr Shaun O'Mara	Novo Nordisk
Mr Andrew Roberts	Boehringer Ingelheim
Ms Clare Willmott (standing in for Ms Holly Kania)	Roche Products

Secretariat

Mrs Sophie Hibburd	Medicines Australia
Ms Deborah Monk	Medicines Australia

Apologies

Mr Geoff MacDonald	GlaxoSmithKline (Deputy Chairman)
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The CRP now includes a representative of the Medicines Australia Chief Financial Officers Group.

The CRP:

- Received a verbal report on the first consumer workshop for the Code Review, held in Perth on 9 October. Further workshops will be held in Sydney and Melbourne on 16 & 18 October.
- Received a presentation on transparency models in place or being introduced in Europe, (under the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) Disclosure Code), France, Japan and US.
- Considered the time companies will need to implement a transparency model, depending on its scope. A phased approach was discussed, which could include commitment to continue to consider further transparency options.
- Discussed obtaining advice to ensure that any transparency measure is compliant with the new Privacy legislation that comes into force in March 2014.
- Discussed the unique identifier for healthcare professionals, which is required for companies' data to be combined in a single database. The CRP agreed to outline all the issues in a paper, and to seek to resolve relevant stakeholders' concerns.
- Started to discuss the merits of the options of a monetary threshold for disclosure or an activity-based approach, where specified types of activities must be disclosed, such as to the EFPIA Disclosure Code.
- Advised that Medicines Australia should confine its consideration of taxation matters to those where companies have some responsibility. The CRP agreed to develop some simple scenarios to assist it to consider these issues.
- Dr Barnes stepped down from chairing the CRP as he has accepted a posting overseas. The CRP thanked Dr Barnes for his strong and thoughtful leadership of the Code Review Panel and wished him well for the future.

The next meeting of the CRP will be held in late October 2013.