VMDA
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January 25, 2013

The Secretary
The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Inquiry into the implementation of the recommendations of the 1999 Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance (JETACAR)

Via Email to: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

The Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association (VMDA) is one of the peak bodies representing Animal Health in Australia and perhaps more importantly, represents a substantial proportion of those entities actually engaged in manufacturing of animal health products within Australia.

VMDA members in particular provide a significant manufacturing base employing many Australians directly and many others indirectly through suppliers and service providers. We support not only the domestic economy of our country but also provide a valuable export market for our pharmaceuticals and, through the treatment and prevention of diseases in our local production animal population, help to underpin our large and successful export market for meat and other livestock products.

The VMDA is supportive of initiatives designed to optimise animal health outcomes without jeopardising the environment or future human health, both within and outside of Australia.

To this end we are aware of and through discussions and information exchange have contributed to, the submission by the Animal Health Alliance on the implementation of the JETACAR recommendations. The VMDA as a key peak body engaged with the APVMA has also contributed to the regulator's approach to the management of issues associated with the JETACAR initiatives, and we are broadly supportive of the substance of the Alliance submission.

The VMDA will continue to support a risk analysis based approach to ensure the judicious and responsible use of antimicrobial drugs in the Australian animal health industry, and will continue to work with the regulator to achieve positive and practicable outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Jim Adams
President/Executive Director