



9 May 2007

Dear Colleague,

SURVEY ON PHARMACEUTICAL/ BIOTECH INDUSTRY SKILLS AND WORKFORCE NEEDS

I write to request your organisation's participation in the attached survey about the skills gaps and workforce needs for the pharmaceutical and biotech industry in Australia, which is being conducted by the Pharmaceuticals Education Council (PEC).

The PEC, which brings together very senior people from the industry and academia, was established in October 2003 as a critical component of the Pharmaceuticals Industry Action Agenda (PIAA), which was endorsed by the Federal Cabinet and launched by Minister Macfarlane in 2002. The Pharmaceuticals Industry Council (PIC) has since been established to take forward the work of the PIAA.

The PIC brings together the innovative, generic and biotechnology industries to represent a whole-of-sector approach to addressing opportunities and threats to investment in the sector. The PIC has been established to take forward the work of the Pharmaceuticals Industry Action Agenda, which industry and the Federal Government have been working together to implement since 2002. The Action Agenda's vision is to double Australia's share of the global pharmaceuticals industry by 2012. The PIC is a peak body of three peak industry associations- AusBiotech, the Generic Medicines Industry Association and Medicines Australia.

The PEC was set up to investigate pharmaceutical workforce needs, assess skills gaps and work with governments and tertiary institutions to ensure that the Australian education system produces the right skills for this knowledge based industry.

The PEC has secured a Commonwealth grant which will enable it to deliver on its priorities.

The survey attached represents the first stage of an important project. It is designed to quantify gaps in the professional capabilities of the current Australian biopharmaceutical industry workforce and the projected future levels needed to develop, manufacture and market new therapeutic agents.

Your participation in this survey will help to ensure that Australia has the capabilities to achieve the Action Agenda's goals of doubling Australia's share of the global pharmaceuticals industry. I urge you to give it due consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Will Delaat
Chair, Pharmaceuticals Industry Council