



The PHARMACY GUILD of AUSTRALIA

ACT BRANCH

ABN 99 466 762 435

29 March 2007

Ms Grace Concannon
Secretary, Standing Committee on Health and Disability
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601



	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
SUBMISSION NUMBER	10
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Dear Ms Concannon

Re: Inquiry Into the Use of Crystal Methamphetamine

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission to the above inquiry. The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Guild) made a detailed submission in May 2006 to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission Inquiry into Amphetamines and Other Synthetic Drugs. The Submission remains relevant and we hope you will accept it as a submission to your inquiry, together with the following comments, which up-date the information in the Submission and relate it more precisely to the ACT.

Project STOP, a Guild-developed internet-based tracking system for pseudoephedrine sales, which is described more fully in the Submission, will be launched nationally on Monday April 2, 2007. This initiative has been supported and funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department and the launch will be conducted by the Minister for Justice and Customs, Senator the Hon David Johnston. Funding of \$380,000 has been made available by the Attorney General's Department to support the national rollout of Project STOP over a two year period. The aim of the funding is to ensure that the web-based pseudoephedrine sales tracking tool is adopted and consistently applied by Australia's approximately 5,000 pharmacies. This will ensure that they are supplying pseudoephedrine products in accordance with therapeutic standards in line with the Quality use of Medicines. It will also assist police in tracking and apprehending pseudoephedrine 'runners' and curb the most prolific source of supply of precursor drugs used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

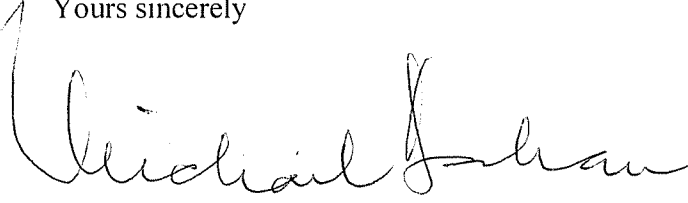
Recommendation 2 of the attached Submission urges the need for nationally consistent legislative provisions to enable pharmacists to perform their duties without breaching any privacy provisions. It is this concern which has delayed the launch of the Project, which was initially planned for April 2006. Rollout of the Project in the ACT has been delayed by this same concern, although this has now been addressed by the ACT Minister for

Health, Ms Katy Gallagher, who has agreed to legislate by regulation to meet the Guild's concerns. The relevant regulation(s) should be introduced shortly and will be followed immediately by the launch of Project STOP in the ACT.

The Guild believes that the active take-up of the Project by ACT pharmacists is the most effective way that pharmacists can make their contribution to the difficult problem of the diversion of legal drugs for the production of methamphetamine (speed) in clandestine laboratories.

The Guild will be happy to expand on the information in this submission and would be happy to provide a demonstration of Project STOP should this be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



for **PATRICK REID**
Branch President