

Media Statement

Accord Chairman praises the Abbott Governments' new 'Accepting Trusted International Standards' policy for being in step with the realities of the global marketplace

Sydney, Wednesday 22 October 2014. In his opening address at Accord's Cosmetic & Personal Care Conference today, Accord Chairman Chris Pedersen welcomed the 'Accepting Trusted International Standards' policy announced last week by Prime Minister Abbott and Parliamentary Secretary Frydenberg as a game changer for an industry over-burdened with duplicative regulation.

"Both Prime Minister Abbott and Parliamentary Secretary Frydenberg deserve praise for this mature and modern policy approach," Mr Pedersen said.

"The 'Accepting Trusted International Standards' policy is a major change to the mindset that has governed the Australian regulatory approach for decades now. That is, the mindset that Australian regulation must undertake its own duplicative assessments for products already in approved safe use elsewhere.

"The new policy the Prime Minister announced last week simply reflects the realities of the contemporary global marketplace. And, as such, it represents a very exciting policy breakthrough. It makes local regulators accountable for justifying why they would need to re-assess products already approved in other advanced markets.

"Presenting at the Accord Conference today were a number of leading international experts familiar with the regulatory regimes in force in places like the European Union, the USA and Canada.

"The stringent regulations already in place in the EU, USA and Canada should become the bedrock of trusted standards upon which the Australian Government and its regulators can quickly and effectively implement the new policy.

"This forward thinking policy is a circuit-breaker for both businesses and consumers eager to access the latest technologies and products available overseas.

"For this reason Accord and its many member companies look forward to working with the Government so that the new policy captures its full potential for streamlining Australian regulation," Mr Pedersen said.

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* The 'Accepting Trusted International Standards' policy is described in the 14-10-2014 joint media release from Prime Minister Abbott and Parliamentary Secretary Frydenberg as follows: *"The Government will adopt a new principle that if a system, service or product has been approved under a trusted international standard or risk assessment, then our regulators should not impose any additional requirements for approval in Australia, unless it can be demonstrated that there is good reason to do so."* See - <http://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-10-14/further-measures-cut-red-tape-accepting-trusted-international-standards>

** Accord's Cosmetic & Personal Care Conference – 'The Big Picture: Australia's Place in International Cosmetic Regulation' – was held on 22 October at Sydney's InterContinental Hotel.

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