

## Industry Statement

### **Passage of *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017* brings welcome certainty for industry**

Accord welcomes the level-headed approach taken in the Senate by government, opposition and minor party senators to deliver passage of the *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017* on 14 February 2019.

Passage of this bill delivers needed certainty for industry, following more than fifteen months of delay since the bill first entered the Senate in 2017.

The legislation, as passed by the House of Representatives on 18 February 2019, responsibly maintains much-needed alignment with the European Union's approach on animal testing and cosmetics. This alignment is essential for a workable animal test ban that supports growth of the Australian cosmetics and personal care products industry. Innovation, and Australian consumer access to the latest products, are also dependent on maintaining EU alignment.

The EU is the largest cosmetics market in the world and many of Australia's regional trading partners, such as New Zealand and the ASEAN nations, align their regulatory approaches for cosmetics to those of the EU.

Another plus arising from the passage of the *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017* are some streamlining measures it will introduce for assessment of low-risk ingredients and products, such as 'polymers of low concern'. These measures should aid in the faster introduction of innovative new ingredients used across a variety of industries.

Accord acknowledges the hard work of the responsible portfolio minister, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie, in achieving the successful passage of this bill. We also commend the opposition and minor parties, particularly Labor spokesperson Mr Tony Zappia MP, for their level-headed consideration and acceptance of this bill.

Many elements of the *Industrial Chemicals Bill 2017*, which represents the first major legislative reform for chemicals assessment since the Hawke Government introduced the *ICNA Act* in 1989, are of a highly technical and complex nature. Many hardworking public servants in the federal health portfolio were responsible for development of this new legislative package and we acknowledge their expert policy work.

We look forward to working with government on the implementation of the new legislation and the finalisation of the rules and regulations related to this new legislative framework.

20 February 2019

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