

Regulation of Medicines in Australia

The LegCo Panel on Health Services at its meeting on 8 January 2001 requested the Research and Library Services Division (RLS) to conduct a research on the regulation of medicines in Australia.

An outline is prepared and is given as follows:

Part 1 - Introduction

A brief description of different types of medicines as defined in legislation, e.g. listed medicines, registered medicines, exempt or excluded medicines, complementary medicines, etc.

Part 2 - Some Basic Facts About Australia

Population and Gross Domestic Products figures, sales volumes of different types of medicines including the sales volumes of imported medicines and locally manufactured medicines.

Part 3 - Regulation of Medicines in Australia

- ♦ Relevant legislation and guidelines, and authorities involved;
- ♦ Control of manufacturing, advertising (restricted to healthcare professionals or open to all consumers), labelling, and sale of medicines (including the regulation of dispensaries / pharmacies);
- ♦ Drug claims;
- ♦ Complaints handling procedures; and
- ♦ Enforcement of regulations including patent laws, convictions and penalties.

Part 4 - Analysis

The RLS proposes to start the research project in March 2001 and complete it in May 2001.