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4 March 2009

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **ASMI comment on children's cough and cold medicines**

The Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI), the industry body representing non-prescription consumer healthcare products today reassured parents about the safety of children's over-the-counter cough and cold medicines.

This follows a recommendation by the U.K. Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) that medicines containing certain ingredients intended to relieve cough and cold symptoms should not be used in children under 6 years of age.

The Executive Director of ASMI, Juliet Seifert, said that parents using these products for children, or who have used them in the past, need not worry.

"The cough and cold medicines in question have been widely used for many years and are safe when used as recommended.

"It is important to note that there is no threat to public health and safety. The change is happening because the clinical data which would be required for new products these days is not available for the children's cough and cold remedies which have been on the market for decades," Ms Seifert said.

The TGA is currently undertaking an independent expert review of the issue. ASMI fully supports the examination and is working cooperatively with the TGA.

"In a number of cases, the concerns over these preparations stem from overseas reports where there have been instances of dosing errors and accidental ingestions.

"There is no indication that the adverse events that have occurred elsewhere, and which have been associated with misuse, are evident in Australia.

"Australia's regulatory system, overseen by the TGA, has facilitated the safe use of cough and cold substances in Australia over many years.

"Children's cough and cold medicines have been used by parents for decades and millions of doses have been administered. They are seen by many parents and carers as an effective and safe option in treating cough's and colds," Ms Seifert said.

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About ASMI: The Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) is the peak industry body for the Australian self care industry representing consumer healthcare products including over-the-counter medicines and complementary medicines. ASMI's mission is to promote better health through responsible self-care. This means ensuring that safe and effective self-care products are readily available to all Australians at a reasonable cost. ASMI works to encourage responsible use by consumers and an increasing role for cost-effective self-medication products as part of the broad national health strategy. [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au)

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