



The PHARMACY GUILD of AUSTRALIA



JOINT STATEMENT

The Australian Medical Association (AMA), the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) and the Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA), as the three major industry organisations in their field, are working to improve the health of all Australians by improving the information systems that underpin the health care system.

The electronic transfer of prescriptions and electronic medication management is the first stage of this revolution in the health information systems.

One of the essential elements of safer, more efficient systems, is national agreement on a coding system to identify each drug uniquely. The three organisations call on the Federal Government to resolve this matter with the utmost urgency.

The Presidents of the AMA, the PGA and MSIA:

Agree that a single coding system for prescription drugs and other therapies is a pre-requisite for safer, more efficient information systems in the health sector;

Call on the Federal Government and industry to support the necessity for a unique medicines coding system;

Support the Medicines Coding Council of Australia (MCCA) endorsement of the use of the European Article Numbers (EAN) system;

Call on the Federal Government and relevant industry groups to support the decision of the MCCA that EAN is the most suitable unique coding system;

Request the Federal Government to provide adequate funding to support continuation of the MCCA's essential work and implementation of its decisions.

Dr Kerry Phelps
President
AMA

Mr John Bronger
President
PGA

Dr Andrew Magennis
President
MSIA