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Country Women's Association of N.S.W.

*Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament
Constituent Society of the Associated Country Women of the World*

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Address all communications to "THE GENERAL MANAGER"
ABN 82 318 909 926

7 August, 2006

The Hon Tony Abbott MP
Minister for Health & Ageing
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

The Country Women's Association of NSW would like to voice its opposition to the opening up to competition of the fractionation of blood collected from Australian donors. While we understand the deadline for submissions to the Review Committee has passed, we asked that our views be considered.

We would like to highlight the following:

- Australia has one of the safest records in the world for the collection of blood and the distribution of its products. The "chain" of collection, supply and use is currently clearly laid out, with legal and medical regulations which are rigidly enforced. Outsourcing any part of the process leaves the "chain" open to breakdowns and limits the enforcement of Australian law and restrictions.
- Australia's donor system is currently made up of voluntary donors and there is concern that these donors may not be willing to continue to donate if their blood will allow an overseas company to profit.
- Currently, less than 3% of Australians donate blood, but that percentage ensures we are one of the few countries in the world that is largely self-sufficient in blood and blood products. Competition in the fractionation process may endanger that self-sufficiency.

We ask that the views expressed above are referred to the Review Committee, and noted by your Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Wilkins', with a long, sweeping underline.

Donna Wilkins
Executive Officer

c.c. The Hon John Howard MP, Prime Minister
The Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, State Minister for Health