

Dear Sandra,

I have received an official response from the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Japan.

Unfortunately, we cannot submit a clear view from The Japanese Government now with regards to the review of Australia's Plasma Fractionation Arrangements.

We realize that most of the points in the terms of reference and questions are very similar with the issues plasma fractionation business' in Japan have been facing. Now in Japan, some advisory committees to the Ministry have discussed this issue but are yet to reach any conclusions. Particular issues on cost/competitive policy and steadiness of the fractionation business are significant and also complex, thus no conclusion has been drawn yet in Japan as well.

Please have a look at the websites below which show the current situation in Japan about these matters for your reference. I will send you hard copies as well.

URL http://www.bpro.or.jp/english/pdf_annual/BPRO2004.pdf (English)
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/new-info/kobetu/iyaku/kenketsugo/2b/index.html>

Best regards,

Yuko

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