

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The petition of certain citizens of Australia draws the attention of the House:

Since 1995, there have been over 290 international drug regulatory agency warnings for psychiatric drugs, with 60 of these issued by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Serious and even life-threatening drug side effects have been withheld from consumers. Some psychiatric drug side effects include anxiety, hallucinations, depression, stroke, heart attack, psychosis, diabetes, gynaecomastia (breast growth in boys) seizures, suicidal behaviour, violence, serious withdrawal effects and death. There have been over 600 deaths linked to antipsychotics and over 370 deaths linked to antidepressants alone in Australia.

Australian experts say only between 1 and 10% of all adverse drug reactions are reported—therefore, the death rate could be substantially higher. If the public is better informed about and are aware they can report adverse drug reactions, deaths could be prevented.

We therefore ask the House to:

Request the Department of Health and Ageing to direct the Therapeutic Goods Administration to require drug manufacturers to add a prominent boxed advice at the beginning of all drug product information for both consumers (Consumer Medicine Information) and medical practitioners (Product Information) and on the packaging itself informing consumers and prescribers: **“You are encouraged to report adverse drug reactions to the Therapeutic Goods Administration and provide contact information to do so.**

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