



22 June 2026

The Hon Rebecca White MP  
Assistant Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing  
PO Box  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2060

Dear Assistant Minister,

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 April 2026 outlining your expectations of how the Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) will achieve its regulatory objectives, carry out its regulatory functions, and exercise its powers. I appreciate your acknowledgement of my independence as Executive Director of AICIS and the responsibility conferred on me by the *Industrial Chemicals Act 2019* (IC Act) to aid in the protection of Australians and their environment from the harmful effects of industrial chemicals.

I am pleased to provide you with this Statement of Intent, which sets out how I will meet the expectations you have outlined.

## Function and Purpose

AICIS was established by the IC Act on 1 July 2020. I will lead AICIS to achieve the objectives of the IC Act, and the Government's relevant policy priorities and objectives. Consistent with the policy intent and legal framework set out in the IC Act, AICIS is a risk-proportionate regulatory scheme that aids in the protection of the Australian people and their environment, while promoting safer innovation by encouraging the introduction of lower risk chemicals.

## Priorities and Objectives

Under my direction, AICIS will achieve its regulatory objectives through risk proportionate chemical assessments and evaluations, compliance monitoring and enforcement. In administering the scheme, AICIS staff will continue to work collaboratively within the Commonwealth Health portfolio, as well as with other Commonwealth, state, territory, industry and community stakeholders.

## Regulatory Reform Agenda

I acknowledge the Government's commitment to a fit-for-purpose regulatory environment that supports national productivity and reduces the cost of living for Australians through its Regulatory Reform Agenda. Under my direction, AICIS will progress key initiatives that align with the Government's Regulatory Reform Agenda by:

- Actively working with the Department of Finance, where appropriate, to initiate, implement and report on any reform proposals to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden that may require legislative reform or have funding implications. AICIS is currently assisting the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing with regulatory reform initiatives as part of the 'Tell us once' reforms and a future Regulatory Reform Omnibus Bill.
- I and my staff will maintain our strong, cooperative relationships with international regulators and government agencies through bilateral and multilateral mechanisms. We will identify relevant international regulations and consider these, along with the global regulatory environment, when seeking opportunities to reduce duplication and streamline processes through appropriate international harmonisation, whilst not compromising core regulatory protections.

- Exercising regulator best practice in our decision-making, policies, processes and communications to minimise regulatory burden and compliance costs, and maximise transparency of operations.
- Applying the Department of Finance's Resource Management Guide 128 and the Government's Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework to our regulatory functions to assess our performance and engagement with stakeholders.
- Supporting greater transparency and accountability of regulator performance, by incorporating regulator performance reporting into our processes, as required by Resource Management Guide 128 Regulator Performance under the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act) and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*.
- Administering cost recovery consistent with the Australian Government Charging Framework.

Under my direction, AICIS will consult with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, as well as other stakeholders, to ensure these initiatives are delivered effectively.

## Principles of regulator best practice

Under my direction, AICIS will exercise its functions and powers in accordance with the following principles of regulator best practice:

### 1. Continuous improvement and building trust:

We will:

- use qualitative and quantitative analysis tools for assessing and reporting on performance, and to support continuous improvement.
- promote a work culture that encourages procedural fairness, accessibility and responsiveness and builds public trust confidence in our performance and in government decision-making.

### 2. Risk-based and data-driven:

We will:

- actively identify and manage strategic risks to ensure our regulatory functions are effective and proportionate, while avoiding unnecessary duplication to the operations of regulated entities.
- build organisational data capability and digital literacy to support secure and effective use of data and improve risk management for AICIS

### 3. Collaboration and engagement:

We will:

- seek opportunities to engage and consult genuinely with stakeholders.
- be receptive to feedback and diverse stakeholder views.
- seek to increase transparency in decision-making processes.
- provide up-to-date, clear and accessible guidance and information to assist regulated entities with compliance.
- maintain productive working relationships with relevant jurisdictional and Commonwealth regulators and international bodies.

These principles of regulator best practice have informed and supported our organisational strategies:



## Innovation and regulatory change

AICIS will continue to monitor the environment in which it operates to ensure that our regulatory approaches keep pace with changes in technology, industry practices, international regulation, and community expectations. AICIS will keep up to date with alternative test methodologies and their appropriateness for determining risks to human health and the environment, including through our engagement with international organisations and government agencies.

Under my direction, AICIS will regularly review and, where necessary, adjust its regulatory approach to respond appropriately to changing social, technological and international regulatory environment and commercial context in which the scheme operates.

## Relationship with Minister and portfolio

I acknowledge that I am primarily accountable to you as the responsible portfolio Minister. AICIS will assist you and the Government to respond promptly to opportunities and issues that may arise in relation to industrial chemicals regulation. I undertake to provide accurate and timely advice on significant issues related to the regulatory functions of AICIS. This will include matters for which the Government is likely to be accountable in Parliament, as well as important operational or budgetary issues.

Under my direction, AICIS staff will continue to maintain a close working relationship with other relevant areas within the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. I will consult with you, as the responsible Minister and other areas of the Department as specific initiatives and strategies are prepared, considered and where necessary, agreed by Government.

## Relationship with Secretary of the Department

I acknowledge my role to support the Secretary of the Department in meeting their obligations with regards to the PGPA Act. As required under the IC Act, a report on the operation of AICIS will be included in the annual report prepared by the Secretary of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and given to the Minister of Health under section 46 of the PGPA Act. Copies of this report will be provided to you as the Minister responsible for the IC Act, as well as to the Minister of Finance. I will coordinate administrative matters with the Deputy Secretary, Health Product Regulation Group and keep in regular contact with the Secretary of the Department.

Your Statement of Expectations and my response through this Statement of Intent will be published on the AICIS website.

Yours sincerely



Graeme Barden  
Executive Director  
Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS)

Cc: The Hon Mark Butler, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing and Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme