

MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT: Ian White 0403 803 821

MENTAL HEALTH DAY URGES CONSUMER PROTECTIONS AGAINST DANGERS OF MIND-ALTERING DRUGS

Human Rights Group Calls for Stronger Report Line for Psychiatric Drug Adverse Effects

WHAT: October 10 is International MENTAL HEALTH DAY. The Citizens Commission on Human Rights Australian subsidiary (CCHR), a 38-year psychiatric watchdog group, will hold an information stand for people who want to get the facts about the dangerous side effects of psychiatric drugs.

Warnings from International drug regulatory agencies have reached over 100 in recent years. CCHR members will collect petition signatures to support a demand faxed and mailed to Federal Health Minister Mr Tony Abbott on Monday 7th October, to require drug manufacturers to add a prominent boxed advised to product information and on drug containers advising consumers: **“You are encouraged to report adverse drug reactions to the Therapeutic Drug Administration.”** American Congress have just passed legislation (20th September) with similar language for their authority to enforce.

WHERE & WHEN: October 10th
Perth Cultural Centre (Near the Art Gallery and Alexander library)
12pm to 3pm

WHY: More than 100 million people worldwide are taking prescribed psychiatric drugs that government regulatory agencies have warned could cause agitation, blood disorders, hallucinations, hostility, psychotic depression, strokes, heart attack, psychosis, severe liver damage, diabetes, seizures, suicide, violence and death.

Unlike medical drugs prescribed for a physically determined condition, there is no blood or other test that can confirm a “mental disorder”. Psychiatry’s diagnostic system is criticized for being driven by drug profits rather than patient care. A US study published last year determined that 56% of the psychiatrists who determined which “mental disorders” were to be included in the profession’s diagnostic manual (DSM) had financial ties to drug companies that manufacture psychiatric drugs. International sales of these drugs have reached \$80 billion and many consumers are unaware that they can bypass their treating psychiatrist and report adverse side effects directly to the Australian Therapeutic Drug Administration (TGA) that is mandated to protect their health interests.

Typically, Mental Health Day fails to draw attention to the abuses that occur within the mental health system and the need for consumers to be fully informed of the negative effects of psychiatric treatment and that there are safe alternatives.

For more information go to www.cchr-wa.org or email@cchr-wa.org

CCHR, established by the Church of Scientology, addresses this with its public awareness stand. In Australia CCHR is known as The Citizens Committee on Human Rights.