

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

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Our Ref: MINTRACK 5  
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21 April 2008

Senator Lyn Allison  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 62 Wellington Parade  
EAST MELBOURNE, VIC 3002

Dear Senator

**Re: Mercy Ministries**

I refer to your letter of March 2008 and addressed to the Hon. Chris Bowen, MP, Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs, regarding your request for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to investigate allegations of misleading and deceptive conduct by Mercy Ministries in its dealings with vulnerable young women with mental health conditions.

As you are aware, the ACCC is responsible for administering the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (TPA). The main purpose of the TPA is to promote competition and efficiency in markets within Australia and to protect consumers and businesses from unlawful anti-competitive and unlawful market practices.

I wish to advise that the matter is currently being assessed by the Brisbane office of the ACCC to determine whether there are any implications under the TPA. A substantive response will be provided to you once the matter has been fully considered.

In the meantime, should you wish to discuss this matter directly with one of our investigations officers, please contact Ms Caroline Serrano of the Brisbane office on (07) 3835 4666.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Cassidy'.

Brian Cassidy  
Chief Executive Officer