



## **STATEMENT REGARDING MOVECTRO**

Thursday 23 June 2011

**Merck Serono has today announced that they will be voluntarily withdrawing Movectro, an oral medication for multiple sclerosis (MS), from the Australian market.**

The company has advised that this will occur as a result of the decision not to pursue the global approval process for the medication.

While Movectro was registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in September 2010, media reports today indicate that Merck Serono have faced significant challenges in gaining registration through similar regulatory bodies in Europe and the United States of America. Approval in these countries would require a new clinical trial program, taking several years to complete, which the company has chosen not to pursue.

Merck Serono intends to ensure that existing trials being undertaken for tablets can continue until completion, but the medication will not be offered to any new patients.

**MS Australia – ACT/NSW/VIC urges people with MS who may be affected by this decision to contact MS Connect on 1800 042 138 and their treating Neurologist for advice.**

**Media enquiries should be directed to Prue Guillaume on 0450 659 811.**

**Ends**