

27 October 2021

Tax Treaties Branch
Corporate and International Tax Division
Treasury
Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600

Via email: RGCITDTaxTreatiesBranch@TREASURY.GOV.AU

To Whom it May Concern

Submission – Expanding Australia’s Tax Treaty Network

I write in my capacity as Group Chief Executive Officer of Aspen Medical in relation to including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of an expanded Australian tax treaty network.

Aspen Medical is an Australian and veteran-owned company, employing more than 4,000 staff here in Australia and around the world. Historically, we have supported the ADF across a range of locations and projects and of particular mention, we have provided Care of Battle Casualty (CBC) medical training services in Al Minhad in the United Arab Emirates.

As a member of the Australia UAE Business Council, Aspen Medical strongly supports the signing of a double taxation agreement (DTA) between Australia and the UAE. We believe a DTA would provide opportunities for our company to expand its presence in the UAE and international markets. As noted by DFAT, the UAE is Australia's largest trading partner in the Middle East and the 17th largest trading partner overall. Our two-way goods and services trade was worth \$10.4 billion in FY 2018-19.

It should be noted that Australia was selected as one of ten key countries under the UAE’s 10x10 program, which aims to increase exports to priority countries by 10 per cent in 10 key markets.

We welcome the recent official visit to the UAE by the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Australian Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, where he discussed the possibility of a trade agreement with the UAE. We believe a DTA alongside a trade agreement will have significant benefits for businesses in both countries.

A DTA between Australia and the UAE would align us with our partners and competitors from countries such as India, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, and the UK, all of whom already have DTA agreements with the UAE.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact Mr Andrew Parnell, General Manager, Government Affairs on 0419 849 780 or via email at aparnell@aspenmedical.com

Thank you for your consideration towards this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B.A.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left and a small flourish at the end.

Bruce Armstrong
Group Chief Executive Officer
Aspen Medical