



ASX RELEASE

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RECEIVED IN THE USA
FROM UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Cochlear Limited today announced that its wholly owned American subsidiary, Cochlear Americas, has received a request for information from the United States Department of Justice (“DOJ”). It is understood that Cochlear Americas is subject to an inquiry under federal health care laws in the USA that deal with the Medicare and Medicaid programs, including some with potential criminal sanctions. The request seeks a variety of documents including those concerning Cochlear Americas’ relationships with healthcare professionals. The DOJ has made no specific allegations.

This issue is taken very seriously. Contact has been made with DOJ officials to express our intent to cooperate fully with this request. It is estimated that document gathering could take four to six months. In addition, we are initiating our own investigation into this matter. Cochlear has engaged a nationally recognised law firm with specialised expertise in US healthcare law. The costs associated with this inquiry will be material and cannot be quantified at this point, however will have a material impact in the current half.

Commenting on the development, Dr Chris Roberts, who was appointed CEO on 1st February 2004 and is currently in the USA said “This is a serious matter and we will be cooperating fully with the relevant authorities. As information becomes available, this will be communicated to the market where appropriate.”

Cochlear, the world leader in cochlear implant technology, has restored hearing to more than 50,000 profoundly deaf individuals worldwide and remains committed to the lifetime hearing of its recipients and candidates. This commitment is delivered through a solid foundation built on 25 years of experience in good science, innovative technology, clinical research and its valued employees.

For further information contact:

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