

## *Sanofi Australia Announces Industry-First Partnership with Return Unwanted Medicines*

### **Sydney, 1 June 2022**

Ahead of World Environment Day on June 5, Sanofi Australia is pleased to announce they have entered into a partnership with Return Unwanted Medicines (The RUM Project), to raise crucial awareness of the environmental impact of incorrect disposal of unused and expired medicines.

Throwing away unwanted and out-of-date medicines can have a significant impact on the environment, including our waterways. This is especially concerning given 70% of Australians are currently unaware of how to safely dispose of medicines, and 60% of people have unwanted medicine in their homes.

Sanofi is the only medicines and vaccines company to currently partner with The RUM Project, a not-for-profit scheme, funded by the Commonwealth Government, operating across Australia. The RUM Project partners with pharmacies, who collect unwanted medicines via specialised bins at no cost to consumers. Returned medicines are then safely disposed of in accordance with regulatory and Environment Protection Agency requirements.

The work of The RUM Project and pharmacists, helps prevent medicines being disposed of inappropriately, including down the toilet or sink, or thrown out with household garbage, which may end up in waterways or landfill and negatively impact the environment.

RUM Project Manager and practising pharmacist Toni Riley says a lack of awareness is one of the greatest challenges of the initiative. Sanofi has partnered with RUM to help overcome this educational gap by raising crucial awareness among consumers and healthcare stakeholders.

### ***Toni Riley***

Project Manager, The RUM Project and Practising Pharmacist

*"We're very pleased to be working alongside Sanofi Australia on this important campaign. We're both committed to educating Australians about how they can be environmentally friendly in a way they might not have considered before. Keeping expired or un-wanted medications and vitamins in your home can also be dangerous, as it increases the chance of people, including small children or pets, accidentally reaching them.*

*"Disposing of your unwanted medication and vitamins is easy - just take them to your local participating pharmacy and they will be safely disposed of. It's good for your health, for your family and for the environment. Don't throw them in the bin or flush them down the toilet - we have a system that is safe and stops them contaminating waterways."*

Since the project started in 2001, The RUM Project has collected and disposed of 11.5 million kilograms of unwanted medicines.<sup>3</sup> Sanofi will work to support The RUM Project's work and build upon this success with a vision that all medicines are disposed of correctly, so we can take care of our planet.

### ***Karen Hood***

Country Lead, Sanofi Australia and New Zealand

*"Taking urgent action on climate and water stewardship is more vital than ever. We know that people want to do the right thing by the planet, but there is a considerable knowledge gap on the responsible disposal of medicines. That's why we're proud to partner with The RUM Project. Together, our pursuit is to encourage all Australians to dispose of unwanted medicines responsibly via their local pharmacy, and to help improve the treatment of our planet."*

Sanofi is dedicated to minimising the environmental impact of its business through sustainability and its global Planet Mobilisation Program. We have committed to Carbon neutrality by 2030

(scope 1, 2 and 3) and net-zero by 2050 (scope 1, 2 and 3). By 2025, we will have 100% eco-designed packaging for all new products, 100% of our sites will be landfill free and we will monitor, manage and reduce emissions on 100% of manufacturing sites. By 2027 we will have 100% blister free vaccine packaging. By 2030, we will switch to 100% renewable energy across all global operations and convert the entire car fleet to carbon neutral.

The RUM Project bins can be found in all PBS-approved pharmacies across Australia. For more information about The RUM Project, visit [www.returnmed.com.au/](http://www.returnmed.com.au/).

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### *About Sanofi*

We are an innovative global healthcare company, driven by one purpose: we chase the miracles of science to improve people's lives. Our team, across some 100 countries, is dedicated to transforming the practice of medicine by working to turn the impossible into the possible. We provide potentially life-changing treatment options and life-saving vaccine protection to millions of people globally, while putting sustainability and social responsibility at the centre of our ambitions.

Sanofi is listed on Euronext: SAN and NASDAQ: SNY

### *About Return Unwanted Medicines*

Return Unwanted Medicines is a national not-for-profit company funded by the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Health to address the Quality Use of Medicines in Australia. The RUM Project is one of the first initiatives that provides consumers with a free and convenient way to dispose of expired and unwanted medicines. Anyone can return their household medicines to any community pharmacy anytime, for safe collection and disposal.

### *Contacts*

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