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CASE REPORT

1. Complaint reference number 205/01

2. Advertiser GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Health (Panadol Gel Tablets)

3. Product Health Products

4. Type of advertisement Print

Nature of complaint Health and safety – section 2.6
Date of determination Tuesday, 14 August 2001

7. DETERMINATION Dismissed

DESCRIPTION OF THE ADVERTISEMENT

This print advertisement features large text reading "...and you can drop 3 dress sizes in just two weeks." Smaller text reads: "NEW Panadol Gel Tabs. A lot easier to swallow." The advertisement includes a graphic representation of a Pandaol pack, with the tagline "Australia's most trusted pain reliever."

THE COMPLAINT

Comments which the complainant made regarding this advertisement included the following:

"I am aghast that a company with a brand as well known as Panadol would resort to this type of advertising. I believe that in reading this ad, it could be perceived that by taking this product for two weeks that you would drop 3 dress sizes!!!!! Losing weight so easily could be very attractive to almost anyone that has an issue with weight loss."

THE DETERMINATION

The Advertising Standards Board ('the Board') considered whether this advertisement breaches Section 2 of the Advertiser Code of Ethics ('the Code').

Noting the advertiser's advice that "the intent behind the advertisement was merely to illustrate the easy swallowability properties of the new product Panadol Gel Tabs in a humorous manner," the Board determined that it did not contravene the Code's provisions on health & safety.

Finding that the advertisement did not breach the Code on any other grounds, the Board dismissed the complaint.