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& Investment Network Ltd

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**Community organisations representing millions of Australians call on
Senate to block USFTA**

**Media conference: 11 am, Wednesday July 21 Jubilee Room,
Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney**

The Australian Council of Trade Unions, the Australian Council of Social Service, Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW, the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Public Health Association of Australia, the Doctors Reform Society, Australian Writers' Guild, Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, UnitingCare, Linux Australia and other organisations will today launch a statement calling on the Senate to block the USFTA implementing legislation in August. A copy of the Statement with all signatories is attached, and will be sent to Federal Parliamentarians

Sharan Burrow, President of the ACTU said "Why does John Howard want Australians to give away thousands of manufacturing jobs and to gift wrap our future wealth from intellectual property?"

Dr Tracy Schrader, National Vice President of the Doctors' Reform Society, said 'This agreement undermines our PBS and Australians will pay the price if it goes through'.

Morrie Mifsud, State President of Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW said "The PBS is under a very distinct threat through the proposed USFTA. We are also concerned that the agreement will encourage privatisation of health services"

Megan Mitchell, Director of the Australian Council of Social Service said "The US Government may be able to challenge Australian community service standards and planning controls, such as those for aged care, where these interfere with the commercial interests of US for-profit providers seeking to operate in Australia."

Dr Andrew Tridgell of Linux Australia said, "The FTA adopts US copyright law, with devastating effects on small IT firms, especially the booming Australian local Open Source software industry. Software developers and consumers will both suffer."

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