

Media Release



8 April 2008

The Hon. John Button

AusBiotech, the national biotechnology organisation, has expressed sorrow at news of the death of John Button today.

A senator from 1974 to 1993, John Button will be remembered for his contribution as Industry Minister in the Hawke and Keating governments.

Dr Anna Lavelle, CEO of AusBiotech, said Senator Button made a substantial contribution in the 1980s on industry reform. His tireless efforts culminated in the Pharmaceutical Industry Development Program.

A major plank of this program was Factor (f), a scheme which encouraged pharmaceutical companies to invest in research and development in Australia. That program and its successor programs have assisted greatly in developing the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in Australia.