

Monday, 14 October 2002

Company Announcements  
Australian Stock Exchange  
20 Bond Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

Dear Sir,

**re: Annual General Meeting Details And Update On Spin-Out Of Shares In  
SciGen Ltd**

The Board of Sonic Healthcare is pleased to announce:

**1. Annual General Meeting**

The Sonic Healthcare Limited (**Sonic**) 2002 Annual General Meeting will be held at 9.00am on Wednesday 13 November 2002 at Ballroom 1, The Four Seasons Hotel, 199 George Street, Sydney.

**2. Spin-out of shares in SciGen**

Sonic has made significant progress in regard to its previously announced intention to 'spin-out' the majority of its holding in its Singapore subsidiary SciGen Ltd (**SciGen**). Following review by the ASX and ASIC Sonic is now seeking approval of its shareholders and optionholders. Meetings of Sonic shareholders (**Shareholder Scheme Meeting**) and Sonic optionholders (**Optionholder Scheme Meeting**) will be held on Wednesday 13 November 2002 to consider schemes of arrangement to effect the transfer of shares in SciGen from Sonic to all Sonic shareholders and the issue by SciGen of options over SciGen shares to all Sonic optionholders (**Spin-out**).

A separate general meeting of Sonic shareholders will also be held on 13 November 2002 to consider a reduction of the share capital of Sonic as part of the Spin-out.

The meetings will be held in Ballroom 1, The Four Seasons Hotel, 199 George Street, Sydney at the following times:

|                             |                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General Meeting             | 11.00am                                                                                   |
| Shareholder Scheme Meeting  | 11.15am (or as soon as the General Meeting has concluded)                                 |
| Optionholder Scheme Meeting | 11.30am (or as soon as the General Meeting and Shareholder Scheme Meeting have concluded) |

Subject to the Spin-out being approved at these meetings, the indicative timetable for implementation of the Spin-out is as follows:

| <b>Event</b>                                                                                                                                         | <b>Date</b>                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Court hearing to approve the Schemes                                                                                                                 | Thursday,<br>14 November 2002  |
| Effective Date                                                                                                                                       | Thursday,<br>14 November 2002  |
| Sonic Shares (ex Capital Reduction) commence trading on ASX                                                                                          | Friday,<br>15 November 2002    |
| SciGen Shares commence trading on a deferred settlement basis on ASX                                                                                 | Friday,<br>15 November 2002    |
| Record Date for determining entitlements to SciGen Shares and SciGen Options under the Schemes                                                       | Thursday,<br>21 November 2002  |
| Spin-out Date ( <i>transfer of SciGen Shares and issue of SciGen CUFS to Sonic Shareholders and issue of SciGen Options to Sonic Optionholders</i> ) | Wednesday,<br>27 November 2002 |
| Despatch of holding statements for SciGen CUFS                                                                                                       | Wednesday,<br>27 November 2002 |
| SciGen Shares commence trading on ASX on normal basis                                                                                                | Thursday,<br>28 November 2002  |
| Settlement of all deferred settlement trades                                                                                                         | Tuesday,<br>3 December 2002    |

**Note:** All dates following the date of the Scheme Meetings are indicative and subject to the Court approval process and ASX approval.

### **3. Despatch of documents**

An Information Memorandum setting out details of the Spin-out together with the relevant notices of meetings and proxy forms will be sent to all Sonic shareholders and optionholders during the week commencing 14 October 2002.

Sonic's 2002 Annual Report and notice of annual general meeting will be sent to all Sonic shareholders at the same time as the Information Memorandum.

For further information please contact Chris Wilks or Paul Alexander on +61 2 9855 5404 weekdays 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Alexander**  
**Company Secretary**