

22 June 2004

**SONIC'S OFFER FOR INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER NETWORK (IPN),
RECOMMENDED BY IPN BOARD**

Sonic Healthcare Limited ("Sonic") today announced its intention to offer 8 cents per share for 2 of every 3 shares (i.e., 66.67%) held by each shareholder in Independent Practitioner Network Limited ("IPN") as at 5.00pm Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, 23 June 2004.

Sonic has been a longstanding and key stakeholder in IPN, and currently holds 19.63% of IPN (190.73 million shares).

The IPN Directors have informed Sonic that it is their intention unanimously to recommend the Sonic offer to IPN shareholders in the absence of a superior offer.

The IPN Directors have also informed Sonic that they intend to accept the Sonic offer for their personal interests in the absence of a superior offer.

IPN is also the subject of an unsolicited takeover offer from Primary Healthcare Limited. IPN Directors have advised IPN shareholders that they should not sell their shares to Primary as the Primary offer is opportunistic and does not recognise the strategic value of IPN shares.

IPN and Sonic have maintained a strong strategic relationship for some years and Sonic has confidence in the future of IPN. Sonic's offer is designed to ensure the ongoing viability and strength of IPN and to support its alternative model of networked independent medical practitioners.

Sonic's offer will be subject to the "prescribed occurrences" set out in section 652C(1) and (2) of the Corporations Act and upon:

- Sonic becoming entitled to 45% or more of the issued ordinary shares of IPN, and
- No other person becoming entitled to 40% or more of the issued ordinary shares of IPN.

Sonic's Managing Director, Dr. Colin Goldschmidt said, "This offer is substantive proof that we believe in the strategy of IPN as an independent business. Our offer gives IPN shareholders an opportunity to realise a better value than the Primary offer and join with us in the future of IPN for part of their shareholding. Our offer is friendly, it is unanimously supported by the IPN Directors and recognises the close relationship that has developed between IPN and Sonic over recent years."

We expect Sonic's Bidder's Statement to be lodged with ASIC before the end of June, and that the Sonic Bidder's Statement and IPN Target's Statement will be dispatched together.

Sonic is being advised on this matter by JPMorgan.

For further information regarding this announcement, please contact:

Dr Colin Goldschmidt
Managing Director

Telephone: (02) 9855 5333
Facsimile: (02) 9878 5066