



The Capital Group Companies, Inc.  
333 South Hope Street  
Los Angeles, California 90071-1406

Phone (213) 615 0469  
Fax (213) 486 9698

14 January 2003

**BY FAX - ORIGINAL IN POST**  
**(61 298 785 066)**

Sonic Healthcare Ltd.  
95 Epping Road, North Ryde,  
NSW 2113  
Australia

**Re: Notice of Change in Interests of Substantial Shareholder under Section 671B**

Company Secretary:

Enclosed is a Notice of Change in Interests of Substantial Shareholder Under Section 671B dated 13 January 2003. Please note that a copy of this report has been sent to the Australian Stock Exchange.

Neither the Capital Group Companies, Inc. nor any of its affiliates own shares of your company for its own account. Rather, the shares reported on Form 604 are owned by accounts under the discretionary investment management of one or more of the investment management companies that make up the Capital Group Companies, Inc.

For the purposes of this Notice an outstanding share balance of 259,631,648 shares was used to calculate the percentages of holdings of the relevant share capital. We believe this outstanding share balance is current; however, if this number is not accurate, please contact us as soon as possible so that we may make the necessary revisions to this Notice.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact Inmo Khang or Gina Martinez at (213)452-0469, or send a fax message to (213)486-9698. Alternatively, you may contact us via E-mail at [NonUSReporting@capgroup.com](mailto:NonUSReporting@capgroup.com).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gina Martinez' in a cursive style.  
Gina Martinez  
Compliance Associate

**FORM 604**

Section 671B

**Corporations Law  
NOTICE OF CHANGE IN INTERESTS OF SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDER  
UNDER SECTION 671B**

To: **Sonic Healthcare Ltd.**  
**(A.C.N.)**

Take notice that The Capital Group Companies, Inc. (A.C.N. n/a ) of 333 South Hope St., Los Angeles, California 90071 on 13 January 2003, a substantial shareholder, gives notice of a change in relevant interests. Particulars relating to the relevant interests and changes including a change in relevant interests of an associate of the substantial shareholder are set out below.

1. Particulars of each relevant interest at the time at which the substantial shareholder was last required to give a substantial shareholding notice to the company.

- (a) Name and address of holder of relevant interest:

The shares reported were owned by accounts under the discretionary investment management of 5 investment management companies (Capital Research and Management Company, Capital International S.A., Capital International, Inc., Capital Guardian Trust Company, and Capital International Limited) which are direct or indirect subsidiaries of The Capital Group Companies, Inc., 333 South Hope Street, 55th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071 and such shares are being reported in the aggregate.

- (b) Number and description of voting shares of each class of shares in the company which relevant interest is held:

Ordinary shares: 18,837,142 shares

- (c) Name and address of each person registered as holder of voting shares:

See Annexure "A" dated 22 October 2002

- (d) Name and address of each person entitled to become registered as holder of any of the voting shares and particulars of the shares in respect of which the person is entitled to become registered as holder:

None

- (e) The total number of voting shares of each class of shares in the company in which the substantial shareholder and his or her associates held relevant interests was:

See Annexure "A" dated 22 October 2002

- (f) The numbers of voting shares of each class of shares in the company specified in accordance with paragraph (b) are the following percentages of the total numbers of voting shares of those classes:

7.26%

- (g) Reasons why each person named in paragraph (a) was considered an associate for the purposes of Division 2 of Part 1.2 are as follows:

The companies (Capital Research and Management Company, Capital International S.A., Capital International, Inc., Capital Guardian Trust Company, and Capital International Limited) referred to in paragraph 1(a) are wholly owned direct or indirect subsidiaries of The Capital Group Companies, Inc.

2. Particulars of each change in relevant interests since the time at which the substantial shareholder was last required to give a substantial shareholding notice to the company:

- (a) The date of change in relevant interest:

13 January 2003

- (b) Whether the change was a change in the relevant interest of an associate of the substantial shareholder and, if so, the name and address of that associate:

The shares being reported under this section are owned by accounts under the discretionary investment management of 5 investment management companies (Capital Research and Management Company, Capital International S.A., Capital International, Inc., Capital Guardian Trust Company, and Capital International Limited) which are direct or indirect subsidiaries of The Capital Group Companies, Inc., 333 South Hope Street, 55th Floor, Los Angeles, California 90071 and such shares are being reported in the aggregate.

- (c) Particulars of the valuable consideration given in relation to the change, including nature of any part of the consideration that did not consist of money, are as follows:

Approximately 88 transactions have taken place in Sonic Healthcare Ltd. in the last four months on behalf of the above mentioned clients. A 2 page report detailing these transactions can be provided if required by contacting Gina Martinez Tel: 213-452-2295 or Inmo Khang Tel: 213-452-2064. Alternatively you may send an email to [NonUSReporting@capgroup.com](mailto:NonUSReporting@capgroup.com).

- (d) Particulars of any contract, scheme, arrangement or other circumstance because of which the change in the relevant interest(s) occurred are as follow(s):

The management companies referred to in paragraph 2(b) above, acting as discretionary managers, acquired the shares under the terms of the relevant discretionary management contracts.

- (e) Particulars of any qualification of the power of a person to exercise, control the exercise of or influence the exercise of, the voting powers of those shares in which the relevant interest in which the change occurred is held, are as follows:

In some cases, the clients of the investment management companies have requested that the investment management companies vote portfolio securities on their behalf. Other clients choose to retain the voting control of their portfolio securities (thus taking all the voting power away from the investment management companies).

- (f) Particulars of any additional benefit that a person has, or may, become entitled to receive, whether on the happening of a contingency or not, because of the change in the relevant interest are as follows:

None

3. Particulars of each relevant interest after the change in relevant interests because of which this notice is required to be given.

- (a) (i) Name and address of holder of relevant interest:

See Annexure "A" dated 13 January 2003 (copy attached)

- (ii) Number and description of voting shares of each class of shares in the company in which relevant interest is held:

21,473,046 shares

- (iii) Name and address of each person entitled to become registered as holder of voting shares after change:

None

- (b) The total number of voting shares of each class of shares in the company in which the substantial shareholder and his or her associates hold relevant interest is:

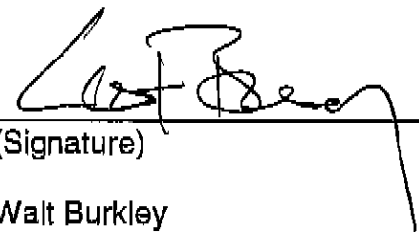
See Annexure "A" dated 13 January 2003 (copy attached)

- (c) The numbers of voting shares of each class of share in the company specified in accordance with paragraph (b) are the following percentages of the total numbers of voting shares of those classes;

8.27%

Dated 14 January 2003

The Capital Group Companies, Inc.

By:   
(Signature)  
Walt Burkley  
Counsel

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#### DIRECTIONS

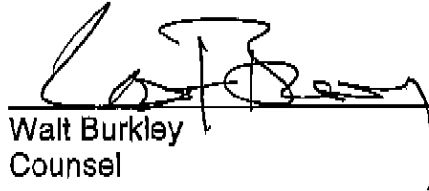
1. This form must contain particulars of relevant interests held by a person or his or her associates at the date on which that person became a substantial shareholder. Notice of any subsequent change in those particular must be given, if required, in additional notice in accordance with Form 603, 604 or 605, prescribed under Section 671B, as the case requires.
2. For the purposes of completing this form, where the voting shares of a company are not divided into 2 or more classes, those shares must be taken to be a class.
3. Where there is insufficient space on this form to furnish the required information, the information is to be shown in a separate annexure.
4. Requirements relating to annexures are set out in regulation 1.06.

## Annexure "A"

This is the Annexure of ## pages marked Annexure "A" referred to in Form 610 -  
Company Request  
signed by this corporation dated 14 January 2003

The Capital Group Companies, Inc.

By:

  
Walt Burkley  
Counsel

**Australia Annexure**  
**Sonic Healthcare Ltd.**  
**14 January 2003**

| <u>CG Investment Management Company</u> | <u>Account Number</u> | <u>Number of Shares</u> | <u>% Held</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Capital Guardian Trust Company          | 44000600              | 1,165,475               |               |
|                                         | 44003300              | 77,467                  |               |
|                                         | 44044600              | 44,509                  |               |
|                                         | 44255600              | 687,008                 |               |
|                                         | 44278200              | 192,944                 |               |
|                                         | 44278400              | 194,986                 |               |
|                                         | 44468600              | 47,643                  |               |
|                                         | 44800300              | 10,576                  |               |
|                                         |                       | 2,420,608               |               |
| Capital International Limited           | 43410500              | 87,107                  |               |
|                                         | 43412500              | 29,600                  |               |
|                                         | 43413100              | 387,672                 |               |
|                                         | 43413200              | 22,160                  |               |
|                                         | 43415000              | 109,823                 |               |
|                                         | 43418300              | 51,238                  |               |
|                                         | 43418500              | 100,728                 |               |
|                                         | 43425200              | 265,536                 |               |
|                                         | 43425300              | 166,838                 |               |
|                                         | 43425400              | 78,203                  |               |
|                                         | 43425700              | 61,486                  |               |
|                                         | 43426100              | 87,600                  |               |
|                                         | 43426200              | 332,500                 |               |
|                                         | 43428200              | 105,553                 |               |
|                                         | 43429700              | 13,000                  |               |
|                                         | 43433100              | 16,116                  |               |
|                                         | 43437100              | 156,484                 |               |
|                                         | 43437300              | 143,776                 |               |
|                                         | 43438100              | 50,881                  |               |
|                                         | 43439100              | 145,676                 |               |
|                                         | 43441100              | 67,111                  |               |
|                                         | 43446100              | 71,734                  |               |
|                                         | 43446200              | 17,421                  |               |
|                                         | 43558100              | 38,933                  |               |
|                                         | 43560100              | 43,300                  |               |
|                                         | 43564100              | 65,897                  |               |
|                                         |                       | 2,716,573               |               |

**Australla Annexure**  
**Sonic Healthcare Ltd.**  
**14 January 2003**

**CG Investment Management Company**

Capital International S.A.

| <u>Account Number</u> | <u>Number of Shares</u> | <u>% Held</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 45415100              | 38,200                  |               |
| 45415200              | 27,329                  |               |
| 45415700              | 179,580                 |               |
| 45426000              | 329,692                 |               |
|                       | 574,801                 |               |

Capital International, Inc.

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 46420000 | 38,600    |
| 46421000 | 36,860    |
| 46422100 | 18,438    |
| 46460000 | 513,890   |
| 46460400 | 196,814   |
| 46484000 | 3,297,362 |
|          | 4,101,964 |

Capital Research and Management Company

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| 11000012 | 9,781,400  |
| 11000035 | 1,877,700  |
|          | 11,659,100 |

**GRAND TOTAL**

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>21,473,046</b> | <b>8.27%</b> |
|-------------------|--------------|

Nominee List  
 Sonic Healthcare Ltd.  
 13 January 2003

| <b>Custodian</b>                                    | <b>Account #</b> | <b>Shares</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| ANZ Nominees                                        | 43413100         | 387,672       |
| ANZ Nominees                                        | 43413200         | 22,160        |
| ANZ Nominees                                        | 43438100         | 50,881        |
| ANZ Nominees                                        | 44278400         | 90,353        |
| ANZ Nominees                                        | 44278400         | 104,633       |
| <b>ANZ Nominees Total</b>                           |                  | 655,699       |
| ANZ Nominees Limited (Melbourne)                    | 43437300         | 143,776       |
| ANZ Nominees Limited (Melbourne)                    | 43446100         | 71,734        |
| ANZ Nominees Limited (Melbourne)                    | 43446200         | 17,421        |
| <b>ANZ Nominees Limited (Melbourne) Total</b>       |                  | 232,931       |
| Bankers Trust Australia                             | 43415000         | 109,823       |
| Bankers Trust Australia                             | 43418300         | 51,238        |
| Bankers Trust Australia                             | 45415700         | 179,580       |
| <b>Bankers Trust Australia Total</b>                |                  | 340,641       |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 11000012         | 9,781,400     |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 43428200         | 105,553       |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 44000600         | 632,071       |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 44000600         | 533,404       |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 44003300         | 41,600        |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 44003300         | 35,867        |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 44255600         | 687,008       |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 46421000         | 36,860        |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 46422100         | 18,438        |
| Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited              | 46434000         | 3,297,362     |
| <b>Chase Manhattan Bank Australia Limited Total</b> |                  | 15,169,563    |
| Chase Manhattan Nominee Ltd.                        | 43425400         | 78,203        |
| Chase Manhattan Nominee Ltd.                        | 43441100         | 67,111        |
| Chase Manhattan Nominee Ltd.                        | 44468600         | 47,643        |
| <b>Chase Manhattan Nominee Ltd. Total</b>           |                  | 192,957       |
| HKBA Nominees Ltd.                                  | 43410500         | 87,107        |
| <b>HKBA Nominees Ltd. Total</b>                     |                  | 87,107        |
| National Australian Bank LTD.                       | 43425200         | 285,536       |
| National Australian Bank LTD.                       | 43426100         | 87,800        |
| National Australian Bank LTD.                       | 43429700         | 13,000        |
| National Australian Bank LTD.                       | 43439100         | 145,676       |
| National Australian Bank LTD.                       | 43558100         | 38,933        |
| National Australian Bank LTD.                       | 43560100         | 43,300        |
| National Australian Bank LTD.                       | 43564100         | 65,897        |
| <b>National Australian Bank LTD. Total</b>          |                  | 660,142       |
| Westpac Banking Corp                                | 43412500         | 29,600        |
| Westpac Banking Corp                                | 43418500         | 100,728       |
| Westpac Banking Corp                                | 43425300         | 166,838       |
| Westpac Banking Corp                                | 43426200         | 332,500       |
| Westpac Banking Corp                                | 43433100         | 16,116        |
| Westpac Banking Corp                                | 45415100         | 38,200        |
| Westpac Banking Corp                                | 46460000         | 513,890       |
| <b>Westpac Banking Corp Total</b>                   |                  | 1,197,872     |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees                          | 11000035         | 1,877,700     |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees                          | 43425700         | 61,486        |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees                          | 43437100         | 156,484       |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees                          | 44044600         | 44,509        |

Nominee List  
Sonic Healthcare Ltd.  
13 January 2003

|                                         |          |                   |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Westpac Custodian Nominees              | 44278200 | 90,715            |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees              | 44278200 | 102,229           |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees              | 44800300 | 10,576            |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees              | 45415200 | 27,329            |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees              | 45426000 | 329,692           |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees              | 46420000 | 38,600            |
| Westpac Custodian Nominees              | 46460400 | 196,814           |
| <b>Westpac Custodian Nominees Total</b> |          | <b>2,936,134</b>  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                      |          | <b>21,473,046</b> |