



MARKET RELEASE

18 October 2005

Sonic Healthcare Limited

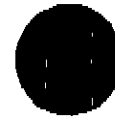
TRADING HALT

The securities of Sonic Healthcare Limited (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open, at the request of the Company pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Thursday 20 October, 2005 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: SHL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Barnett'.

David Barnett
Assistant Manager, Issuers (Sydney)

**SONIC
HEALTHCARE
LIMITED**

18 October 2005

Mr David Barnett
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
Level 6
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By Facsimile: (02) 9241 7620

Dear Mr Barnett

Request for Trading Halt

I request a trading halt in the ordinary securities of Sonic Healthcare Limited from the commencement of normal trading on 18 October 2005.

Sonic Healthcare requests that the trading halt remain in place pending an announcement by the company.

The company is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.

Yours sincerely

Paul Alexander
Company Secretary