

To whom it may concern

I am writing in connection with the consultation paper on homoeopathic products. I find it extremely alarming that the TGA would even be considering options such as option number 4. I'm a fully qualified scientist with a bachelor of applied science that has worked for the past 30 years in the natural health industry with a major interest in practice of homoeopathy. I have a very large practice and have found homoeopathy to be extremely effective in a wide range of health problems and all my patients are very happy with their results.

I find it quite extraordinary that the NHMRC report should even be considered by the TGA when it was based on a flawed and corrupted report which was totally rejected by the English Parliament. Further to this there is a current investigation by the Commonwealth ombudsman into the conduct of the NHMRC in preparing this report showing severe shortcomings in their evaluation of evidence. Until this matter is properly resolved this report by the NHMRC should not be used in any manner for decision-making on this subject.

Homoeopathy is one of the most widely used systems of medicine in the world today as established by the world health organisation who also recognises that as a therapeutic good. The Swiss government investigation is also highly relevant in this regard.

It is quite absurd that the NHMRC should apply criteria in evaluating homoeopathic medicines then it does to its own standard research projects and one can only wonder at its motivation in doing so.

The responsibility of the TGA is to protect public safety and homoeopathic medicine is amongst the safest of all. Making judgements on homoeopathy which affect its availability and practice in this country indeed go beyond mere therapeutic considerations and strike at the heart of democracy. There is very large public support for homoeopathy with a very low risk profile and people have a right to seek the treatment they find effective providing harm is not being done which is clearly the case with homoeopathy.

Any decision which restricts or prevents the public's access to this highly effective modality will put Australia out of step with the rest of the modern world. Homoeopathy is most definitely evidence-based where there is a willingness to look at the significant amount of evidence available. Proper scientific evaluation always requires an unprejudiced observer and this principle has most definitely been ignored in the NHMRC report.

I put it to this committee that option 1 is both fair and democratic whilst ensuring consumer confidence in quality and safety of medicines.

Thank you