

Homoeopathy is both safe and effective. The TGA's role is to protect the safety of the Australian public. Homoeopathy immediately meets this criterion by having almost no side effects. In terms of its efficacy, aside from reviews that have been written from the specific agenda of trying to disprove Homoeopathy, there is more and more evidence of its ability to improve health outcomes when prescribed properly.

The NHMRC Homeopathy Review, which is cited as a primary piece of evidence for the options relating to Homoeopathy in the "Consultation - Options for the future regulation of low risk products", has been strongly criticised by almost all independent bodies who have analysed it, and was rejected by the UK Parliament that commissioned it. The paper has been labelled as agenda driven, with significant issues in its methodologies. This study only included research that promoted the authors' own beliefs about the efficacy of Homoeopathy (i.e. that it is "not effective"), and ignored the significant and growing body of evidence that shows that, when used correctly, Homoeopathy can promote significant healing responses in both humans and animals. The mechanisms behind the action of Homoeopathy are not well understood, and this has caused doubt in many orthodox practitioners, but the results are very real. Sceptical researchers often start out with the premise that "Homoeopathy can't work, therefore it doesn't", and then go about collecting any evidence to try and prove their point. In Switzerland, a recent government report on Homoeopathy stated, "There is sufficient evidence for the preclinical effectiveness and the clinical efficacy of homeopathy and for its safety and economy compared with conventional treatment." The Swiss Government will this month give Homoeopathy the same status as conventional medicine for health insurance purposes.

The standards used in the NHMRC Homeopathy Review are much stricter than any other current TGA requirement for alternative medicine, and would be hard for many orthodox pharmaceuticals to attain (especially when considered alongside their many known side effects). Homoeopathy should be considered in the same way as all other alternative medicine modalities.

The practice of Homoeopathy is very complex. There is no one medicine for one condition, and it is not always easy to select the medicine that will have the best effect, but when it does, the results can be dramatic. As I have discovered with my experiences of orthodox medicine, the same can also be true - not all medical drugs work on the conditions they are prescribed for, and some people can have debilitating side-effects that make orthodox medicine unusable for them.

There are many studies about Homoeopathy that use appropriate methodologies and show that it is effective in a wide range of ailments. Both people and animals improve quickly and safely, without side-effects, when treated correctly. Homoeopathy promotes the patient's own immune system to return them to health. I have experienced this first hand and seen its effectiveness with my family.

For all the people who have benefited from Homoeopathy over many years, Option 4 is unacceptable. Homoeopathy is a valid therapeutic approach to helping people achieve and maintain good health and wellbeing, and must maintain its status as such. To remove Homoeopathy from the

'Therapeutic Goods' status from homoeopathic medicines would mean to deprive thousands Australian adults and children of a valid form of health care that has enabled them to achieve better health and wellbeing.

Homoeopathy has been used worldwide for more than 200 years as a complementary medicine that has often outperformed contemporary orthodox treatments of the time. Parents who use Homoeopathy to treat simple first-aid conditions with their children are able to dramatically reduce their dependence on antibiotics and other orthodox medicines, which benefits society (less antibiotic resistance and healthier children) and reduces the burden on the nation's Medicare bill. In many countries, such as Switzerland, Homoeopathy is becoming more deeply integrated into the countries' health systems because it is effective and because it helps to promote health and wellbeing, reducing overall health costs for the country and increasing societal productivity. This is the direction that Australia should be going to help mitigate the country's burgeoning health bill, and help to deal with some of the current health crises that are affecting our society.

In terms of the current TGA proposal, I ask that you:

Option 1: Keep homeopathy regulated the way it is.

Option 2: Require scientific evidence for high level claims (addendum to Option 1).

Option 3: Exempt homeopathy from listing (as long as this allows for continued use with low level claims and recognition of its Worldwide Traditional use as a medicine, otherwise, I ask that the TGA reject it).

X Option 4: I ask that the TGA completely reject this option as it is contrary to the evidence that is continuing to grow world-wide, and contrary to other government decisions globally.

Thank you.