

Therapeutic Goods Administration

10th May, 2017

Re: Consultation: Options for the future regulation of 'low risk' products

To whom it may Concern,

I write regarding the consultation process currently underway for future regulation of low risk products. My specific concerns regard Homeopathic products and how changes to TGA regulation will affect patients and practitioners. I write as a long term regular user of homeopathy, both independently as well as in regular consultation with my Homeopath.

Homeopathy plays a valuable part in the healthcare of myself and my family. The therapeutic benefits and positive results from our use of homeopathic remedies complement our use of allopathic medicine. I value my freedom to make an informed choice regarding medical treatment as there are times when treatment options offered by my General Practitioner are unsatisfactory. This is often due to the unwanted and damaging side effects. I am also frustrated by the propensity to address symptomatic relief but not the cause.

In the past, chronic severe hay fever, sinus and allergies negatively impacted my health on a daily basis. Constant post nasal drip led to upper respiratory and sinus infections and annual bouts of bronchitis. This affected my home and work life. Oral antihistamines and corticosteroid nose spray were a daily requirement. Antibiotics and prednisone were also necessary when I had flare ups. My concern began over the amount of drugs I needed to control 'symptoms', with no real solution offered. I also never felt 'well'. Consequently I sought advice from a qualified Homeopath in an effort to improve my health. Working with my homeopath, within two years I no longer needed to ever take antihistamines or nose spray. I don't even keep them at home now. Hay fever attacks are now rare and when it does happen I am able to control it with homeopathic remedies so that it doesn't progress into an upper respiratory/and or sinus infection. This is just one example of the positive health benefits I have experienced using homeopathy, allowing me a better quality of everyday health. If the availability of homeopathic medicines, information or practitioners is compromised, I am certain that it would have a severe impact on my health. I believe individuals should be free to choose from a variety of safe healthcare and treatment options.

On this basis I disagree with Option 3 and strongly reject Option 4. I am extremely concerned that Option 4 would severely restrict or deny my access to homeopathic medicines, treatment and educational material. I believe the negative impact would also affect homeopathic practitioners, manufacturers and pharmacies. Homeopathy is recognised by the World Health Organization as the most popular complementary medicine, worldwide. The TGA and every drug regulating authority worldwide, recognise homeopathic remedies as 'low risk' medicines. I do not believe it is in Australian consumer's best interest for the TGA to restrict both freedom of choice and access to safe medicines that provide therapeutic relief from illness.

My preference and support are therefore for Option 1, with Option 2 also being an acceptable option. Please note however, that I strongly object to your reference to the flawed NHMRC report (under option 1). With the integrity of this report under investigation by the Ombudsman for its bias, it should not be recognised.

Regards

Susan Pfoeffler