

March 8, 2019

RE: Consultation - Options for the Regulation of Faecal Microbiota Transplantation materials

I am writing to share my feelings on the options for the regulation of FMT materials from the standpoint of a concerned citizen.

Early in 2018 I became aware through popular media about the gut microbiome, and its connection to both mental and physical health. New research is being published almost daily making the claim that an unhealthy gut microbiome has a causal connection to the litany of modern diseases that will kill most Australians who die of "natural" causes.

Personally, my father has suffered from chronic depression for nearly 30 years, my mother is showing early signs of Alzheimer's disease, my brother has Crohn's symptoms and I have an immune deficiency.

Research suggests that we all have a problem with our gut microbiome, and that the most effective treatment for all of these conditions may include a faecal transplant.

Anecdotal and clinical research is strongly indicating that our conditions, and many others such as addiction, Parkinson's, Autism, Diabetes, Obesity, and innumerable gut issues can be effectively treated with FMT.

I believe that we have the right to explore this treatment under the supervision of qualified medical practitioners, and that those practitioners should be able to offer this treatment when they feel it may be of benefit, without fear of prosecution for "advertising".

Furthermore, any classification of FMT by the TGA which limits the availability or promotion of this treatment through qualified channels is likely to lead to a "black market" of FMT or, more dangerously, a "DIY FMT" culture such as has arisen in the United States, where FMT is only legally available for certain treatments. I think this scenario should be avoided at all costs, and the only way to do that, it to not restrict the medical community in treatment.

To support this submission I have published a Change.org campaign and to date have obtained nearly 800 signatures in support of leaving FMT classified as a tissue rather than a biological. (Please follow the link to the petition [HERE](#))

As more information about the microbiome enters the mainstream, inevitably the demand for this treatment will increase exponentially. If it is of benefit, then it must remain freely available through the appropriate channels. To say nothing for the potential economic benefit of reliable treatment for chronic immune-related diseases, which cost the economy tens of billions of dollars every year.

Thank you for your consideration.