

Submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration
Consultation on Reforms to the regulatory framework for complementary medicines:
Assessment pathways

At the moment, complementary medicines produced in Australia do not list all their ingredients. Instead, consumers must be satisfied with a list of what the product **does not contain**.

I do not believe that this is acceptable, and it is not consistent with practice overseas, e.g. complementary medicines produced in the United States and the United Kingdom, where the complete list of ingredients is shown, nor is it consistent with the Australian food labelling requirements that require all ingredients to be listed.

The consultation document does not address this issue and therefore I suggest that the new regulations must require:

- Australian manufacturers to list all the ingredients in their products; and
- Australian web sites must list all the ingredients in the product description of the products that they sell.

This will ensure that people buying Australian produced complementary medicines know exactly what is in the products that they buy, whether they buy those products in a store or online, rather than having to hope that none of the ingredients are unsuitable.

As a general comment on the changes, I believe that:

- the requirements shouldn't increase prices; and
- there should be no additional restrictions on what I can buy overseas as a result of any changes.