



AUSTRALIAN HOMOEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION INC.

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ARBN 077 464 101

To the Representatives and Members of the ICH

As you already know, I have recently taken over the role from Michelle as ICH representative for the Australian Homoeopathic Association (AHA). I wanted to give you an update of the recent activities of the Australian Government in response to the NHMRC reports that discredited 17 natural therapies, and particularly homeopathy via a more in-depth review, back in 2015.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has now responded by proposing to remove homeopathy from TGA regulations, meaning that no homeopathic medicines would be TGA regulated and would therefore lose their status as 'therapeutic goods'. It could also mean that homeopathic practitioners and companies making homeopathic products would no longer have supply or access to homeopathic preparations. Submission where made to the TGA against the proposal, protesting against the TGA's reliance on the false NHMRC Homeopathy Review report. The Government has tabled this proposed change until March 2018.

Next, the Department of Health ordered a pharmacy review. Part of this review proposes that no homeopathic remedies should be sold at pharmacies, including products such as teething relief for babies. Submission where made against the proposal and it gave us some airtime on the media. We have not yet heard anything further on this proposal.

The Government recently announced the removal of natural therapies, including homeopathy, from the private health fund system. This has worked in our favour as it has made the Your Health Your Choice Campaign escalate from 20,000 signatures to 44,000 signatures in less than one week. The campaign aims to collect 100,000 signatures so Senate leaders within the Australian Government will be persuaded to initiate a Senate Inquiry into the NHMRC report. In the meantime we continue to try to gain media attention and spread the word of the campaign far and wide. We also continue to try and reach out for donations and are grateful to the organisations and people supporting the campaign, which couldn't run without the support of those donations.

In the meantime we are connecting with Senators to find an individual who will table our petition in the Senate, a first required step to setting up an inquiry. So far this hasn't had the response we hoped for but we are advised that a greater number of signatures to the petition may generate sufficient political pressure for our campaign to be taken seriously. The



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Commonwealth Ombudsman has finally agreed to investigate the complaint against the NHMRC Homeopathy Review, however this can take time.

With everything happening so quickly and changing rapidly I will give you a brief update in the upcoming meeting if the time is available within the agenda.

With Warmest Regards

Sarah Kottmann
ICH representative for AHA