

12 July 2017

Review Secretariat
Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation
The Australian Government Department of Health

Dear Professor King, Bill Scott and Jo Watson,

I wish to make a submission to the Pharmacy Remuneration & Regulation Interim Report expressing my **strong rejection of the proposed option (Option 3-4) for homoeopathic products not to be sold in PBS-approved pharmacies.**

This option directly contradicts the basic criteria of the Review's strategic vision: that is, it is not 'forward-looking', does not 'encourage innovation' and it is inconsistent with 'adapting to the changing needs of the Australian public' - who want greater access to medicines of their choice, not less.

I have used homeopathic medicines for myself with great benefit. Homoeopathic products have been available in pharmacies for years without any evidence that they create 'risk of harm to patient health': a view based on speculation, not evidence.

I have enjoyed the benefits of homeopathic medicines for more than 30 years, to treat everything from colds, rashes, warts, allergies, fatigue and even general malaise. In every case, my first call was to my local GP, whose recommended treatment was to destroy or otherwise work around the injury or illness, and not treat the variety of symptoms presented. Few of these did anything except lessen symptoms, some caused me additional problems (palpitations, scarring, stomach issues).

I have had very proficient homeopathic physicians diagnose and prescribe the appropriate treatment for my ailments, NONE of these ever caused side effects, and most delivered a result that surprised my GP. I have similar brilliant results with chiropractic, much to the surprise of my GP. I rarely use GPs any more except for referrals for specialist scanning or surgical treatments, never for illnesses. I do not use over the counter medications where

there is a homeopathic alternative, but find less and less of these being available in Pharmacies even now.

I believe homeopathy is a valid and very effective type of health treatment, the many thousands of users alone attest to that; removing these medicines from the range of medicines available in pharmacies will simply create greater demand for imported and on-line products, which may not be as well managed nor of high quality. We rely on our pharmacies as a reliable and trustworthy member of the general health industry, and homeopathy has been approved and adopted by these agencies to provide assistance to us who require them. IF you remove these from the shelves, YOU must then also remove all Patent medicines, confectionary, cosmetics, pain killers and every other product that fails to show a consistent 'medical benefit' to the user.....otherwise, why are you being so selective about homeopathy ?

I believe Australians are discerning people who spend their money wisely; many Australian use homoeopathy, not by error of judgment but because they (like me) find that it works FOR THEM. I would request that MORE high quality homeopathic medicines be made available to the public than are presently available; my understanding is that the vast majority of homeopathic medicine users are well educated and well informed about the efficacy and safety of the homeopathic medicines they use, and would be happy to attest to that.

Yours sincerely,
Keith Pereira.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Pereira', with a stylized, flowing script.