

July 11th 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 homoeopathic medicines for myself and my family 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.

It is not subsidised like pharmaceutical medicines thus saving the government and us the taxpayer Billions of dollars in script costs.

Australians are discerning people who spend their money wisely. Around a million Australian use homoeopathy, not by error of judgment but because they (like me) find that it works. A healthy democracy protects the rights of citizens to choose and access the healthcare and medicines they want - that's what a free and healthy society does.

This is convenient for the highly profitable pharmaceutical industry who routinely use base products used in homeopathic medicines to artificially mimic and then make their own; a prime example is Willow Bark which has become the successful Aspirin product that makes them millions.

I find it incredible that it is accepted practice in Europe that GP's use a mix of Homeopathic and Pharmaceutical medicines. That the Royal houses of Europe actively use homeopathy and that somehow once you reach Australia it ceases to work.

