

Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation
#008_ANON-58KW-N5SA-6

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this submission in response to the reform options outlined in the Interim Report.

I definitely do NOT support any proposal to remove homeopathic products from pharmacies. Consumers / Australian citizens should have the right to choose and access safe and effective products as opposed to pharmaceuticals with their harmful side effects. I have used homeopathic remedies which have successfully and safely cured / treated various diseases and illnesses in myself and my family, including pets. These products are particularly effective, even more so than pharmaceuticals (with which I have had many that fail to resolve illnesses, particularly for chronic or difficult to treat conditions).

Homeopathy products have cured my cat of two bouts of cystitis. My pre-diabetic Aunt has suffered immense discomfort and prolific urination and pharmaceuticals were unable to provide any relief. Homeopathic drops improved her condition after the first dose and her pain and urination have both been reduced significantly without any negative effects. My husband no longer needs to take pain killers or anti-inflammatories prescribed by our doctor due to homeopathic products. I had 3 operations for severe sinus infections and repeated antibiotics and was still plagued by green mucous and excruciating headaches from 1994 until homeopathy cured me in 2005 (I have not needed prescription or non-prescription pharmaceuticals for sinus since 2005).

I could give many other examples of the effectiveness of homeopathy in improving my family's health. I know what works for my family, so I should be able to choose my own healthcare. I do not need bureaucrats or those with a vested interest in the pharmaceutical industry to decide for me. 70 per cent of Australians use complementary medicine services and products. The recommendation that *'homeopathy and homeopathic products should not be sold in pharmacies'* does not meet the basic criteria of the Review's strategic vision (p.3). That is, it is not 'forward-looking', 'encouraging innovation' or consistent with 'adapting to the changing needs of the Australian public'. Removing homeopathic products in pharmacies does not represent of the desires of the Australian community or the right to make choices regarding one's own health.

I am not aware of any cases of harm caused by homeopathic medicines, but I am aware that many pharmaceutical medicines have serious side effects, which is why I believe homeopathy should remain as a safe treatment option for Australians. The Report does not provide any evidence for its position that the *'sale of homeopathic products is not benign but creates risk of harm'*, which is based on speculation, not evidence. I have found that homeopathic medicines work effectively on children and animals, so I know homeopathy has no more to do with the

placebo effect than other medical interventions.

The Panel's discussions and opinions on the efficacy on homoeopathy are based solely on the highly flawed NHMRC *Homeopathy Review*, without recognising its limitations or considering the broader research evidence base (for example research conducted in languages other than English) and other positive reports. A Complaint to the Commonwealth Ombudsman for maladministration and scientific misconduct was submitted in 2016. While this review is the subject of an Ombudsman complaint, it is incomprehensible for this flawed report to be used to inform health policy.

