

Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation
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16 July 2017

Attn: Review Secretariat
Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation
The Australian Government Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Dear Professor King, Bill Scott and Jo Watson,

This is a submission to the Pharmacy Remuneration & Regulation Interim Report regarding the proposed option (Option 3-4) for homoeopathic products not to be sold in PBS-approved pharmacies. I ask the committee to reject this proposed option on several grounds.

I have used homoeopathic medicines for myself and my family for many simple ailments (common cold, upset stomach, migraine, period pain) and with good results. Using these remedies has meant my family has visited a doctor far less than the average family, thus saving valuable time and expense to the Australian medical system.

Homoeopathic products have been available in pharmacies for years without any research proving that they create 'risk of harm to patient health'. I know several pharmacists personally, and I am quite certain they would not knowingly stock homeopathic products if they had encountered ANY evidence that they caused harm.

Option 3-4 directly contradicts the basic criteria of the Review's strategic vision:
It is not 'forward-looking',
It does not 'encourage innovation'
It limits a pharmacist's capacity to adapt 'to the changing needs of the Australian public'.

More than five per cent of Australians use homoeopathy. The Australians that I know would not choose to use, or commit to using **any** medicine if they thought it was useless or worse, dangerous. To assume that people would choose something dangerous is patronising and insulting. People use homeopathy because, like me, they find that homeopathy works, and in many cases (in my family) with fewer side effects and longer term results than other medicines stocked in pharmacies.

I would hope that your committee is working towards supporting the free and healthy society that Australia has been to date. If so, please protect the rights of Australian citizens to choose and access the healthcare and medicines they prefer.

Yours sincerely,
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