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17 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 homeopathic products not to be sold in PBS-approved pharmacies.**

This option fails to support the rights of the Australian public to have access to a form of complementary medicine that is used worldwide and has been available in pharmacies for decades. In Europe, 29% of citizens freely access Homeopathic preparations in pharmacies. In Australia, 70% of the public utilize complementary health care services and products. The option that *'homeopathy and homeopathic products should not be sold in pharmacies'* is not consistent with the growing trend of consumer choice. Moreover, the complete non-toxicity of Homeopathy makes it a safe option for acute health care, and should be seen as supportive of the preventative health care model that is proving to be increasingly important in today's society. Compared to pharmaceutical medicines which can and do have adverse side effects, homeopathic medicines should be considered as a total *non-risk* to consumer health. There is no evidence to support the position that homeopathic medicines cause risk of harm.

I would also like to add that it is now in the public domain that the *NHMRC Homeopathy Review*, which provides the backbone for the proposed option that Homeopathic preparations be removed from sale in pharmacies, is a document based on flawed methodology and is being challenged at the desk of the Australian federal Health Ombudsman for its validity. No further action should be taken to limit consumer access to Homeopathy until the evidence for the effectiveness of Homeopathy has been fairly brought to light.

Yours sincerely,

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