

To whom it Concerns,

Why is Australia determined to take away *people's* choices?

Not only that, the choices that could be eroded are choices which don't harm.

On 22 June 2017, a government report *The King Review* recommended that homeopathic products (eg hay fever drops, teething and colic formulas) should not be sold in Australian pharmacies. The report used a biased review conducted earlier by the *National Health and Medical Research Council* (NHMRC) which falsely concluded homeopathic medicines are ineffective. If formulas are ineffective, this is making the public of Australia look like idiots. If *The King Review* is approved, it could mean homeopathic medicines will be removed from pharmacies around Australia. Is no one thinking about the other side of this that, peoples lively hood will be lost.

BACKGROUND OF THE NHMRC REVIEW

The Pharmacy Remuneration & Regulation (King Review) Interim Report cites the NHMRC Homeopathy Review. The panel's conclusions on the efficacy on homeopathy are based solely on the highly flawed NHMRC Homeopathy Review. 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 cannot be used to inform health policy.**

Serious issues with the NHMRC Homeopathy Review include:

- The Chair of Council informed the public in a press release that "NHMRC does not support homeopathy" before any evidence was assessed.
- The NHMRC reported that it '**rigorously assessed over 1800 papers', but only 176 studies were actually assessed.**
- NHMRC reported that it used 'standardised, accepted methods'.
- In 2012, NHMRC sacked the principal author of NHMRC's own guidelines on how to review health evidence, who conducted a high quality first review.
- The research protocol for a second review was then created, resulting in 171 out of the 176 studies being dismissed outright from any consideration in the findings, **leaving only 5 studies that were actually reviewed.**

- Supporters of anti-homeopathy lobby groups were appointed on the working committee.
- NHMRC excluded any homeopathy research experts from the process, **which is in breach of NHMRCs own mandatory standards.**
- The CEO of the review committee slandered the sector as “snake oil merchants” demonstrating that bias was present at the highest level. I ask myself what type of people were asked to take part in this very important study, which seems flawed from its foundation.
- International studies on homeopathy involving thousands of people, show positive health benefits and cost savings to healthcare systems. None of this evidence was used by NHMRC, nor mentioned in the King Interim Report.
- **The King Report** does not provide any evidence for its position that the ‘sale of homeopathic products creates risk of harm’.
- The positions of Australian pharmacy bodies are misleading, since they are based on the flawed NHMRC Homeopathy Review.
- Basing options for the Australian public on the NHMRC Review is poor science at best, causing further unjust damage to the homeopathy profession. I would like to know how a study which is flawed from the beginning be an example of True Findings. IT CAN NOT!