

Date: 10/7/2017

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 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.

Not only am I a Homeopathic Practitioner but also I have been using Homeopathy on my family and myself for many years, my own mother brought us up on homeopathy. That includes the products available in pharmacies, which work wonders on teething babies and to settle upset tummies. I myself work in a pharmacy and have so for many years, those that come into pharmacy want a choice and are very capable in making that choice on their own, without the need for health departments to make that choice for them. We as humans are very capable of making our own informed decisions, if something doesn't work we wouldn't be using it yet somehow homeopathy not only has grown but is still being used worldwide even after 200+ years. Australians are discerning people who spend their money wisely. Around a million Australians use homeopathy, not by error of judgment but because they (like me) find that it works. Anyone with half a brain can figure out that the reason is that it works. Instead of pushing it aside we should be embracing the fact that homeopathy is the answer to many of your problems especially in hospitals and can save the nation a lot of money if it was embraced and used alongside conventional medicine.

Homeopathic 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.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Kottmann