

**Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation
#083_ANON-58KW-N5HJ-4**

21st July 2017

To the 2017 Pharmacy Review Panel,

As an Australian citizen it is of great concern to me that many bright and enthusiastic pharmacists who want to make a career in caring for the public of Australia are becoming disillusioned with their profession.

The world and society and its needs are changing in ways that we may not fully understand but as a democratic and compassionate society we must address the rise in serious chronic health including mental health in all areas of the community.

We therefore cannot continue to discount the satisfaction that our professionals themselves demand from their public service as pharmacists and this is fundamentally to provide support to the needs of their clients. This includes providing expert individualised advice in line with a patient's right to choose how they manage their personal health.

The suggested reform therefore not only impinges negatively upon the public, whom it is trying to protect, but upon the body of dedicated professionals that are supporting them.

Specifically,

In part "3.5. HOMEOPATHIC PRODUCTS", the statement is made "There are unacceptable risks where community pharmacies are allowed to sell homeopathic products."

This is nonsense. A pharmacist is a trusted professional who is able to offer advice regarding the sale of ANY item including complementary medicines and homeopathic medicines in a pharmacy setting. A homeopathic medicine is a low-risk option to help support health and wellness which should be freely available for Australians, as it is in over 27 other countries globally. The World Health Organisation recognises homeopathy as a traditional system of medicine. It has also been clinically researched for many conditions globally, and is a recognised part of health care systems for many countries around the world.

The Pharmacy Society of Australia states in its "CARE PRINCIPLE 2": "A Pharmacist practices and promotes patient-centred care."

Essentially this means respecting a patient's dignity and autonomy, recognising diversity and providing them with the information they need to make an informed and autonomous decision.

These are serious issues that cannot afford to be overlooked if this review is to be considered truly in the best interests of all Australians.

Yours sincerely, Dr Saranyu Pearson, Veterinary Surgeon, Victoria.