

Current Issues

Homeopathy

Issue

The National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) draft position statement on homeopathy.

Response

The Australian Government is of the view that Australians have the right to make their own decisions about their health care. The Government equally believes that Australians should be provided with accurate information about health care options so that they can make informed decisions about their own health.

The NHMRC is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research; developing health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and governments; and providing advice on ethical behaviour in health care and in the conduct of health and medical research.

NHMRC's Strategic Plan (2010-2012) identified 'examining alternative therapy claims' as a major health issue for consideration by the NHMRC. As part of this commitment, the NHMRC commenced a review of the evidence on the effectiveness of homeopathy. As part of its review, the NHMRC has invited the Australian Homoeopathic Association and the Australian Medical Fellowship of Homeopathy to submit evidence that demonstrates the effectiveness of homeopathic preparations to the NHMRC for consideration.

It has also been reported in the media that the NHMRC intends to ban homeopathy. This is incorrect. The role of the NHMRC is to provide evidence-based advice and does not extend to regulating alternative therapies.

NHMRC notes, in the 2012-13 Federal Budget, the Australian Government commissioned a review, overseen by the Chief Medical Officer, to examine which natural therapy services are underpinned by a robust evidence base. Following the implementation, under private health insurance policies attracting the PHI rebate, insurers will only be able to pay benefits for those services that have been found by the review to be clinically effective. The changes are expected to be implemented from 1 January 2014.

Reviewed: 13 September 2012

Page last modified: 09 August, 2012

Search current issues

More current issues

- [Parkinson's NSW seeks Specialist Neurological Nurses for Medicare Locals](#)
- [Dental Health Care](#)
- [Zytiga – Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Listing](#)
- [Better Access – Changes to the number of allied mental health services from 1 January 2013](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme changes to infant formula prescribing](#)