

I am concerned that Option 4 of the TGA Consultation will restrict homeopathic information and remedies, and my access to them. I have used homoeopathy as remedies to treat myself and my family when I have felt it appropriate. We have had effective results. Option 1 is my preferred result. This would maintain the status quo with information and remedies remaining available. Choice of treatment for my health is my constitutional right and should not be reduced by a Government department who thinks they know better. I understand it is the role of the TGA to assure that medicines available to the Australian public are safe. Homoeopathy is definitely safe. It cannot be compared for safety with conventional drugs and OTC medicines which according to BMJ are the third biggest killer.

Homeopathy is recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the most popular and widely used complementary medicine worldwide. Entire communities depend on it for healthcare and the prevention of epidemic disease and the results have been documented. That being so, why would the TGA consider restricting the access of Australians to it?

The Swiss Report on Homeopathy says, "There is sufficient evidence for the preclinical effectiveness in the clinical efficacy of homeopathy and for its safety and economy compared with conventional treatment." That being the case, why did the TGA exclude this favourable report from its consultation paper yet refer to two negative reports, one of which is currently before an Australian ombudsman for bias and irregularities, and the other, already rejected by the UK Parliament? Why would the TGA consider removing the access of Australians to homeopathic information and products when, based on the evidence, the TGA's Swiss counterpart has given homeopathy the same status as conventional medicine in regard to health insurance?

Homoeopathy is said by detractors, to be a placebo which patients feel helps them based on hype. Please let me give an example which contradicts such a notion. Some years ago, a lady asked me for advice and help for her sick pup. It was extremely thin, would not eat, was continually vomiting and had severe diarrhea. She had paid a lot of money to have it checked by a vet who advised her to have the pup put down as it could not possibly recover. I made up some Arsenicum album homoeopathic drops for her to try. She reported back to me 6 months later that, from the day after she gave the pup the homoeopathic remedy, the diarrhea and vomiting stopped and it started to eat. It then recovered rapidly and thrived. There is no way the dog was responding to hype or placebo. I have had other similar responses over the years I have been practicing. I now

mainly prefer to use herbal medicine and nutrition as my main modalities rather than homoeopathy, but I have seen how well homoeopathy works and I also have read much about successful applications of homoeopathy in the literature. It should remain available to those Australians who choose to use it.

