

Technical Alert

NHMRC Call for Comment: Complementary and Alternative Medicine Resources for Clinicians

Dear Member,

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has called for comment on two draft documents, prepared with the aim of promoting awareness amongst clinicians of the importance of discussing complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) use with their patients. Submissions are welcomed to the [NHMRC](#) before **Friday, 13 September at 5:00pm (AEST)**.

1. [Talking about Complementary and Alternative Medicine – a Resource for Clinicians](#) (eight page document) provides information on CAM use and regulation in Australia. It also includes prompts for having a conversation with a patient on considering evidence, effectiveness and potential risks of CAM use.
2. [Talking to your patients about Complementary and Alternative Medicine](#) (one page document) is a summary document covering the key messages that clinicians could focus on when discussing CAM use with their patients.

The NHMRC is seeking feedback from potential users of these documents on the ir relevance and usability, as well as suggestions on how best to distribute this information to users.

Options for Regulation of Unregistered Health Practitioners

At a recent Standing Council on Health meeting, Ministers considered the Decision Regulatory Impact Assessment: Options for regulation of unregistered health practitioners.

Ministers agreed in principle to strengthen state and territory health complaints mechanisms via:

- a single national code of Conduct for unregistered health practitioners to be made by regulation in each state and territory
- a nationally accessible web based register of prohibition orders; and
- mutual recognition of state and territory issued prohibition orders

Ministers have asked the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) to undertake public consultation on the terms of the first national Code of Conduct and proposed policy parameters to underpin nationally consistent implementation of the Code, for consideration by Ministers.

In 2011, the CHC provided a submission on the ‘Options for regulation of unregistered health practitioners,’ supporting a national statutory code of conduct. We advocated for, among other things, that the development of a code of conduct should not impede individual professions, particularly those of ingestive practices, from making an application for statutory registration. The CHC will continue to actively pursue statutory registration of Naturopaths and Western Herbal Medicine Practitioners for inclusion in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) administered by AHPRA.

For more information, including the CHC White paper, about the Registration of Naturopaths and Western Herbal Medicine Practitioners, click [here](#).

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