



MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiry into the Promotion of False and Misleading Health-related Information or Practices

The NSW Parliamentary Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission has recently commenced an inquiry into the promotion of false and misleading health-related information or practices.

Chair of the Committee, Mrs Leslie Williams advised: "The Inquiry was prompted by concerns about the possible lack of proper oversight of individuals and organisations that publish or disseminate information of a purportedly medical nature that is not only contrary to accepted medical practice, but which may be harmful to individual or public health."

In response to some community concerns raised about possible direction of the Inquiry, Mrs Williams further advised: "This Inquiry is not focussed on the alternative health remedies which many Australians have adopted as part of responsible supplementary health care. Nor will it inquire into the many legitimate discussions and studies taking place within the science and medical community about appropriate health treatments, along with the diversity of health options available."

The Committee will also have particular regard to ensuring the powers of the Health Care Complaints Commission are sufficient and appropriate in addressing any issues that may be raised throughout the Inquiry.

Mrs Williams continued: "What this Inquiry seeks to achieve is proper oversight of all organisations that offer health-related services or advice, with particular regard to those that may be misleading the public in which there may be harmful consequences."

Submissions remain open and are requested by **Friday, 13 December 2013**. Further evidence will be taken at public hearings to be held in early 2014.

All written submissions should be forwarded to: The Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission, Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000. Alternatively, submissions may be submitted via email at chccc@parliament.nsw.gov.au

For media comment, please contact Leslie Williams on (02) 6584 0977. Further information about the Inquiry process, including the full terms of reference, can be obtained by visiting the Committee webpage at <http://parliament.nsw.gov.au/healthcarecomplaints> or by contacting Mr Jason Arditi, Inquiry Manager, on (02) 9230 2096.

29 November 2013

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