

**Submission
No 65**

THE PROMOTION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION OR PRACTICES

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Submission regarding changes to the powers of the HCCC

As a concerned member of the public who believes in freedom of speech and freedom of choice in regards to ones own health and the health ones ones family I wish to make the following submission

1). "accepted medical practice" includes many procedures and treatments which do not have a high success rate and carry a high level of risk or chance of adverse reaction –the fact that a treatment or procedure is "accepted " does not make it either safe or effective .Examples include some surgical procedures ,drug treatments and vaccines .These could also be considered to be part of your terms of reference " practices that may be detrimental to individual or public health " Further " false or misleading health-related information" is often given out about these procedures by drug companies and the medical profession which are not entirely the whole truth . Therefore people are within their rights to do their own research before agreeing to any "accepted medical practice" . And it would seem that these new changes to the law would hinder people from exercising this right

2) " The publication and/or dissemination of information that encourages individuals or the public to unsafely refuse preventative health measure treatments or cures " -to me this is a very worrying statement as it implies that people even when making an informed choice do not have the right to refuse treatments .If a Government is prepared to ignore vast amounts of evidence about the side effects of for instance ,vaccination then forces people through laws or more sublet forms of discrimination such as exclusion from schools or workplaces or by as has recently been done ,denying families certain payments if children are not vaccinated ,then I would hope that in the case of side effects or severe vaccine damage that there is in place some form of compensation to help those who in good faith submitted to an "accepted medical practice" for which the risks are widely known .

3) " the promotion of health-related activities and/or provision of treatment that departs from accepted medical practice which may be harmful to individual or public health " – I imagine much of this statement also relates to vaccination . If it is possible to prove that people refusing vaccination or other treatments are actually putting the public at risk then this might be acceptable but as this is questionable not to mention an enormous assault on the right of an individual to choose their own health care or of a parent to choose what they believe it right for their children then freedom of speech and freedom to be master of ones own health destiny ought to be a right that cannot be denied to people

4) "the adequacy of the powers of the Health Care Complaints Commission to investigate such organisations or individuals" - can we be certain that individuals or organisations promoting "accepted medical practice " will be investigated with the same vigour as seems to be used against those promoting health choices or alternative therapies ? It appears that when evidence is widely available in several countries not just Australia about the dangers of drugs ,vaccination etc. ,this is conveniently ignored and certainly not properly

investigated . If an investigation procedure of any kind is to take place it should be impartial and should include available data from many sources and should involve any practices that are both medically accepted and those which aren't not just the latter .

5)” the capacity, appropriateness, and effectiveness of the Health Care Complaints Commission to take enforcement action against such organisations or individuals” –I cant imagine what this statement might mean ,possibly that any practitioner of any thing not considered “accepted medical practice “ could find themselves prosecuted ,fined or even jailed not it seems because they have caused any actual harm but merely if they gave advice ,offered information or spoke out against something “accepted “ . This would appear to be a form of persecution or could easily become one and certainly a denial of human rights . If we can no longer question things then surely we no longer live in a democratic society ?

6) “any other related matter” – this very vague statement seem to be the most concerning as one can only imagine what might get included in this very general term .

In short it is my opinion that these changes to the powers of The HCCC present a very real threat to the rights of the individual ,to democracy and is seeking to demonise a certain sector of society based of claims and evidence that is biased . It should remain the right of the individual to be able to question any aspect of the democratic society we live in and to seek and have access to information and alternative points if view on every issue especially ones concerning health ,to deny people this is and I don't believe I am overstating the point here –the beginning of the suppression the population of this country .

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