

**Submission  
No 61**

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

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**Date Received:** 29/01/2014

# Penny Barron Mobile Massage and Homeopathy

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29/1/14

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my concern and opposition regarding new laws that may move to give the HCCC greater powers to move against any therapist or body that speaks of or uses any form of natural therapy, especially those therapies not directly endorsed by conventional medicine. I am a homeopath working within the bounds of what is considered acceptable practice according to the chief Australian governing body of homeopathy, AROH.

Already I am finding it difficult to work in an increasingly hostile environment, which beggars belief since homeopathy has been shown in many instances to have an effectiveness not just on par with, but often more effective than conventional treatments for many health issues.

([http://rd.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-642-20638-2\\_1](http://rd.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-642-20638-2_1) and [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dana-ullman/homeopathic-medicine- b\\_1258607.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dana-ullman/homeopathic-medicine- b_1258607.html))

Given that antibiotics are losing their effectiveness, combined with the spiralling rate of chronic disease, I would have thought it to be of benefit to society to look into options that work by improving the basic state of health in a person. At the risk of sounding obvious, health is improved by targeting the cause of disease, rather than masking yet more symptoms with drugs that carry a range of side effects and risks. Prevention of disease would present a far more cost effective way of dealing with disease than the model we have at this time, and there is a wide range of modalities within complimentary medicine that effectively help to treat and prevent rather than mask the symptoms of chronic and acute disease.

I also draw attention to the recent case against Homeopathy Plus, brought by the HCCC against Fran Sheffield, for claims made on her website. Due to this information being published on her website, there was a complaint/s made not about people being hurt, but about content that was deemed unfit to be on the website. Shall I repeat the important aspect of this point I am making? *There was nobody hurt in any way by the content displayed on her website.*

In contrast, I would like to bring attention to the recent case against Graeme Reeves, better known as the Butcher of Bega. (<http://netk.net.au/AbuseCases/Abuse28.asp>). I find it an incredible miscarriage of justice that *over two hundred complaints were made to the HCCC due to the most severe and disgusting injuries, and the HCCC did not act until the media became involved.*

If I search the internet I can find many examples of where the so-called medical protection watchdog did nothing while people were injured, severely traumatised or killed as a result of a medical



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procedure/medicine or practitioner. Is this because the HCCC was, and still seems to be, busy spending its tax paid resources chasing up natural practitioners who have written the wrong things on their websites? It seems a very odd thing to do in the light of such gross medical misconduct as is listed below. These links were found after a very brief online search. I would hate to think of how many of these issues have actually occurred that haven't found justice.

[http://www.dci-au.org/html/medical\\_abuse.html](http://www.dci-au.org/html/medical_abuse.html)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thalidomide>

<http://www.reportageonline.com/2008/08/from-prescription-to-addiction/>

<http://evidencebasedonly.blogspot.com.au/2007/12/anti-smoking-drugs-serious-side-effects.html>

<http://nocompulsoryvaccination.com/2013/05/13/australian-telegraph-newspaper-endorses-medical-child-abuse-unvaccinated-children-should-be-raised-as-outcasts/>

Another report, compiled in New Zealand, shows the lack of side effects associated with natural medicines. This seems ironic then that the HCCC would dedicate so much in the way of resources to seemingly persecute natural therapists. It seems yet another way that the HCCC can undermine the practice of natural/complimentary medicine in Australia, which is reducing the public's health choices and potentially undermining their general level of health. Why is this madness occurring?

(<http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1101800214009-675/BainReport2006.pdf>)

If the TGA and the HCCC were serious about their efforts to ensure safety in conventional medical and complimentary therapies for the public, it would make sense that both natural therapies and conventional medical injustices be investigated in the same way. Yet, it seems to me from what I have seen, that for a natural therapist to say the wrong things on their website is enough to be taken to court, using hundreds of thousands of tax payer dollars, when dangerous conventional therapists, interventions and pharmaceuticals are basically ignored. Is this so that natural therapists can be made an example of? Why, then, are these bodies not making more of an example of rogue pharmaceutical companies that make drugs which cause terrible injuries to people, or practitioners who mutilate their patients? Surely these issues are far more important than stopping the occasional person from speaking out against accepted medical dogma? Besides, who or what, in the grand

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scheme of things, is going to pick up the pieces if that dogma is not found to be one hundred percent correct in the long term? How will it be possible to question medical procedure, or even to try treat/reverse iatrogenic damage on a mass scale, if the big pharmaceutical companies, with the help of government organisations, have successfully wiped out smaller, naturally based modalities just to protect their monopolies and bottom lines?

I urge the HCCC to focus more on protecting people from ALL injustices inflicted by health providers and medicines in a fair and even handed way, and to stop wasting resources trying to push laws through which are blatantly unfair and unjust towards complimentary practitioners. I urge the HCCC to recognise the validity of complimentary health options for the population of Australia, as it may become increasingly necessary as pharmaceutical drugs struggle to keep a lid on the explosively rising epidemic of chronic disease.

Yours sincerely,

Penny Barron

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[www.hhcc.com.au](http://www.hhcc.com.au)

