

**Submission  
No 50**

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

**Name:** Mr & Mrs Jon & Susan Kirk  
**Date Received:** 5/02/2014

Jon & Susan Kirk

4th February 2014

Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000

**SUBMISSION ON INQUIRY INTO THE PROMOTION OF FALSE OR MISLEADING HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION OR PRACTICES**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to request that the New South Wales Government DOES NOT give the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) the powers as set out in the Terms of Reference.

This document would give the NSW HCCC extremely wide sweeping powers that would effectively give the HCCC the ability to censor both the public & individuals and stop freedom of speech. Under the Terms of Reference the HCCC will be given power to shut down anyone who speaks against or provides information that in anyway either speaks against the "accepted medical practice" or encourages individuals to use anything apart from the "accepted medical practice". Science and the accepted medical practice is NOT absolute and there is no guarantee that their recommendations are better than those provided by alternative health practitioners. Individuals should have the freedom to choose their own health treatment plan. How can they ever have a choice if non-medical practitioners do not have the freedom to disseminate any information?

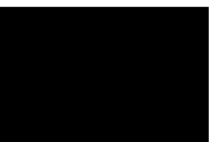
It is necessary for a healthy FREE society to allow debate where the common scientific consensus and beliefs are questioned. Science does not need censorship to protect it from being questioned and the public of NSW in NO WAY need the HCCC to adjudicate over what science or other information is permissible to discuss and promulgate.

The views and opinions of the public in relation to health related matters should be PROTECTED from government interference. Arguments that are against the accepted government health policy (such as public immunisation programs) are not just debates over health policy but they are also political discussion therefore should be protected by the implied constitutional right of political communication. Freedom of expression is an essential human right, protected under international and domestic human rights instruments.

I urge you not to allow the powers of the HCCC to be broadened as indicated under the Terms of Reference. It would be detrimental to the freedom of our society and will be an unacceptable leap backwards and one that NSW should in no way take.

Many thanks for your consideration and rejection of this matter, thereby protecting the freedom in our country.

Yours faithfully,



Jon Kirk



Susan Kirk