

**Submission  
No 3**

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

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This email concerns the terms of reference for the Committee on HCCC.

- a) The publication and/or dissemination of false or misleading health-related information that may cause general community mistrust of, or anxiety toward, accepted medical practice;
- (b) The publication and/or dissemination of information that encourages individuals or the public to unsafely refuse preventative health measures, medical treatments, or cures;
- (c) 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;
- (d) the adequacy of the powers of the Health Care Complaints Commission to investigate such organisations or individuals;
- (e) the capacity, appropriateness, and effectiveness of the Health Care Complaints Commission to take enforcement action against such organisations or individuals; and
- (f) any other related matter.

The HCCC was originally set up to protect the public from dangerous medical practices. They were to be an independent overseer to adjudicate whenever there was a question of someone being harmed by medical treatments.

I believe that they have the power to do that already - to investigate if someone HAS BEEN HARMED BY MEDICAL TREATMENTS. This must apply to orthodox and complementary treatments equally. There is evidence of orthodox medical treatments having caused much more harm than complementary practices! You just have to compare the cost of Professional Insurance to complementary practitioner insurance to understand this point.

Further it is the right of each individual to choose how to look after their health.

This includes the right to discuss with others how to do this, and how to implement their convictions.

The role of the HCCC is NOT to preserve the status quo of orthodox beliefs and protect accepted medical practice. Medical practice of today is not likely to be the medical practice of the future. We should not be shoe-horned into current practice as medicine is an evolving body of information.

Please do not increase the powers of the HCCC.

Yours sincerely

Faye Thornhill