


**Submission
No 71**

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

Name: Ms Delena Gaffney
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**Submission:
Inquiry into the Promotion of False and Misleading Health-
related Information or Practices**

To: The Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission

I am a resident of rural NSW and am very concerned at the ToR of this enquiry.

The above-mentioned inquiry will focus on individuals who are not 'recognised' health practitioners, and organisations that are not 'recognised' health service providers. You do not say by whom these individuals and organisations are to be recognised. If it is only the government that has the ability to decide who is recognised and who is not, then there is a fundamental flaw in your inquiry. What is recognised by the government is not always what is best for people. Therapies and modalities such as acupuncture and yoga are widely seen to be very beneficial to people – however they were not always part of 'accepted medical practise'. According to the WHO, 80% of the world's population relies on natural therapies. Natural Therapies have been used for thousands of years and deserve a place in society. There is a myriad of therapies, modalities and practices which the main stream medical model has little or no knowledge. There is no problem with that. The problem is that allopathic (or mainstream) medicine is only **one** avenue for addressing health concerns. People who wish to access information or services from any other avenue, have a right to do so – in accordance with Article 19 of "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" to which Australia is a signatory.

Article 19.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

If the purpose of the HCCC is to protect public health and safety, then the HCCC needs to look at accepted medical practise which is harming people daily. The WHO puts medical errors as among the top 10 killers in the world – and that's not including those who are injured or maimed.

People have good reason to be anxious about or mistrust accepted medical practice.

We also have a right to refuse any preventative health measures, medical treatments or cures.

To live in a free and democratic society means that all people have a right to question, to investigate and to choose.

You are stepping well beyond the boundaries of a free society as you are proposing to stifle discussion and flow of information and effectively take away people's right to informed consent (which is a principle of the Nuremberg Code).

I submit that this inquiry is undemocratic and has potentially profoundly negative consequences for health and freedom.

Yours,



Delena Gairney //

