



Australian Natural Therapists Association Ltd.

ANTA – It's Your Choice, Naturally

ABN 68 000 161 142

25 November 2020

The Hon. Greg Hunt
Minister for Health
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
By email to: minister.hunt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: The Natural Therapies Review Expert Advisory Panel – The **REVIEW**

The Australian Natural Therapists Association (ANTA - since 1955) collaborates with and joins the calls of Private Healthcare Australia and other peak industry groups to recommend the NTREAP (the Review) be curtailed to avoid further costs and negative business impacts on Australian operators. ANTA represents 9,500 therapists and their businesses across Australia.

We also join the calls to repeal the list of therapies that private health insurers are currently prohibited to cover. This latest iteration of the Review has drawn on for an inordinate period of time at a disproportionate cost to business, plus inconvenience and myriad negative impacts on the Australian taxpayer.

There is no sound public policy precedent for government intervention in this sector. In fact, the Review creates increased and unnecessary red tape and legislation in an area that is already highly regulated and has destroyed small business operators and graduates of expensive university level courses who now have severely diminished graduate outcomes. These young Australians completed four year TEQSA accredited bachelor degree training programs. Repaying their education debt now appears quite impossible.

We know that Australian citizens who take an active role in their healthcare enjoy better personal health outcomes. It is important to empower and enable Australians to actively seek and choose providers who care for, educate and support their healthcare needs. This simply makes sense, particularly so, when Natural Medicine providers develop a partnership approach to healthcare outcomes including dietary, exercise and recovery programs to name but a few of the wideranging health care services available.

Private health insurance is a contract between professional associations, therapists, insurers and their members – it is important that insurers are able to offer products that meet member needs and incentivise members to take a more active role in their entire healthcare strategy. This independent, proactive and preventative approach supports thousands of Australian micro, and small businesses who provide natural therapy services to the community. The aims of this review appear to fly in the face of safe and effective support services to the Australian public under the National Code of Conduct. It also appears less than appropriate to stifle this business community through the facility and actions of the panel involved in the index review.

Jim Olds
ANTA Executive Officer
executiveofficer@anta.com.au

Cc: Natural Therapies Review Team

National Administration Office

PO Box 657, MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558 Phone: 1800 817 577 Fax: (07) 5409 8200

Email: info@anta.com.au Website: www.anta.com.au

ANTA MEMBERS – RECOGNISED PROFESSIONALS