



CEO Statement

Release of an annotated version of the 2012 draft report *The Effectiveness of Homeopathy: an overview review of secondary evidence*

In 2015, NHMRC released the *NHMRC Statement on Homeopathy* and accompanying Information Paper.

I am aware that there has been considerable interest in an unfinished draft report on an overview of reviews of the effectiveness of homeopathy (frequently referred to as the 2012 draft report), and why it was not released.

I am also aware and concerned that a significant amount of misinformation has built up about the content of this 2012 draft report. I am releasing the report now in an annotated form to address this misinformation.

As part of the process to develop the *NHMRC Statement on Homeopathy*, an initial contractor was engaged to review the scientific evidence on the effectiveness of homeopathy in treating a variety of clinical conditions with the aim of providing Australians with reliable information about its use. The contract was terminated in August 2012 with the mutual agreement of NHMRC and the contractor. The draft of the unfinished report, titled *The Effectiveness of Homeopathy: an overview review of secondary evidence* (i.e. the 2012 draft report), was not endorsed by the expert Homeopathy Working Committee.

A second reviewer was contracted and provided an overview of published systematic reviews and a review of submitted literature. The second contractor developed the *NHMRC Information Paper: Evidence of the effectiveness of homeopathy for treating health conditions* (published in March 2015 at the same time as the *NHMRC Statement on Homeopathy*).

The document I am releasing comprises the 2012 draft report in its entirety, with annotations that have been reviewed by the previous Chair of the Homeopathy Working Committee. These annotations have been made for context and to avoid misunderstanding of the draft report.

It must be emphasised that this is an incomplete piece of work that is not a NHMRC-endorsed report, therefore its content must be read in this context. NHMRC's usual practices of quality assurance were not applied to this document. These practices (which include methodological review, expert review, public consultation and approval from the expert committee and NHMRC's Council) can often result in significant changes to initial drafts.

NHMRC strongly encourages interested members of the community to refer to the 2015 *NHMRC Information Paper: Evidence of the effectiveness of homeopathy for treating health conditions*. Contrary to some claims, the review did not conclude that homeopathy was ineffective. Rather, it stated that **“based on the assessment of the evidence of effectiveness of homeopathy, NHMRC concludes that there are no health conditions for which there is reliable evidence that homeopathy is effective.”**

Professor Anne Kelso AO
Chief Executive Officer

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