

NHMRC Natural Therapies Working Committee (s39 Working Committee)

Terms of Reference

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has established a Natural Therapies Working Committee (the Committee) to oversee evidence evaluations on the clinical effectiveness of 16 natural therapies excluded from health insurance on 1 April 2019 (excluded natural therapies).

These therapies are Alexander technique, aromatherapy, Bowen therapy, Buteyko, Feldenkrais, Western herbalism, homeopathy, iridology, kinesiology, naturopathy, Pilates, reflexology, Rolfing, shiatsu, tai chi, and yoga.

The evidence evaluations will support the Deputy Chief Medical Officer to provide advice to the Australian Government on whether any of the excluded therapies should be re-included as eligible for private health insurance rebates.

The role of the Committee is to oversee the evidence evaluations commissioned by NHMRC by advising on:

- the research protocols, including:
 - the scope, clinical questions and methods to identify and evaluate relevant studies
 - appropriate inclusion and exclusion criteria
- evidence provided by the Department of Health's Natural Therapies Expert Advisory Panel, including its eligibility and how to incorporate this into the evidence evaluations
- the outcomes that are critical or important for decision making
- the draft and final evidence evaluation reports provided by the contractors for each of the 16 natural therapies
- the evidence statements in the above reports
- any other matter requested by the NHMRC Chief Executive Officer on this project.

The Committee will be effective for the period **1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023** and will report to the Chief Executive Officer of NHMRC.