## Natural Therapies Review 2019-2020

### Notes – 3rd Stakeholder engagement/update teleconference 31/1/2020

11.30am – 12.30pm (CST)

***Note – The following notes of the teleconference content were taken for summary information purposes only and are an attempt to capture the key points raised or discussed. Due to the many participants in the teleconference at times it was difficult to hear all comments or questions. Whilst every attempt was made to ensure accuracy, the notes should not be taken as a verbatim transcript of the teleconference discussion and the content must be considered in this light.***

## 1. Present:

**Teleconference Chair** –Department of Health Representative

**Department of Health representatives** – Pauline, Phil

#### 1.1 Indication of stakeholder Organisations that had representatives online[[1]](#footnote-1):

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| --- |
| **Name of Organisation** |
| Australian Register of Practitioners Nutrition |
| Australian College of Sports and Exercise |
| Australian Homeopathy Association |
| Australian Institute of Kinesiology |
| Australian Naturopathic Practitioners Assoc. |
| Australian Physio Assoc. |
| Australian Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique |
| Australian Traditional Medicine Soc. |
| Bowen Association Australia |
| Bowen Therapists Association Australia |
| Choice |
| Complementary Medicine Assoc. |
| Consumers Health Forum |
| Friends of Science and Medicine |
| Homeopath Medicine Institute |
| Inga Yoga |
| Naturopath Associations Australia |
| Pilates Alliance Australia |
| Shiatsu Association |
| Thai Chi Assoc. |
| Yoga Aust. |
| Australian Regional Health Group |
| ? Health Insurance |
| HBA |

### 2. Purpose of Stakeholder engagement teleconferences:

To provide stakeholders with processes and progress of 2019-20 review only. Stakeholders were encouraged to use the Secretariat mailbox for email communication with the Review team. The 31/1/2020 meeting was the third Stakeholder Update teleconference and follows the 3rd meeting of the Natural Therapies Expert Panel on 16/1/2020. Outcomes of the meeting are published on the Department Natural Therapies Review website at: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/ntreap-meeting-outcomes-16-january-2020>.

### 3. Status of work on Research Protocols for Tranche 1:

* Tranche 1 includes: Naturopathy, Western Herbalism, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates and Shiatsu.
* Protocols yet to be finalised for Tranche 1 – still being discussed. Draft research protocols considered on 16/1/2020 with Panel giving feedback to NHMRC and working with experts to finalise.
* When research protocols finalised they will be published on NHMRC portal – anticipated they are to be published in next couple of weeks.

#### 3.1 What experts looking at in issues raised:

* Ensuring issues discussed
* Protocols consistent
* Consistent treatment of variation across therapies
* Types of usual care
* Consideration of things like quality of life and health and wellbeing used as outcomes measures

#### 3.2 Discussion of exclusions outside scope of review

* Patient reported exp measures
* Reports of small studies
* Terms to clarify – variation across therapies

#### 3.3. Questions and Comments on above:

***Q. stakeholder****: Will stakeholders be notified of published protocols?* [A: Department will advise as soon as possible once published – Registered by Prospero.]

***Comment stakeholder****: Prospero currently significantly burdened with Protocol Registration due to amount of work experiencing*. [A: No intention to delay registration of Protocol.]

***Q stakeholder****: Does this mean Data extraction will commence before protocol will be registered? Comment Stakeholder: This may need to be discussed with Expert Panel in terms of compliance with Prospero protocols.* [A: Thank you for raising this issue. Department will raise with NHMRC].

## 4. Process – data collection - Tranche 1 Stakeholder organisations

* Public invitation to submit evidence opened 27/1/2020 and closes 21/2/2020.
* Department will collate submissions and provide to NHMRC
* This is an opportunity for stakeholders to independently identify and submit evidence but reviewers will be doing their own searches.
* Only additional evidence a) not included in original evidence base (earlier review) or b) excluded may be submitted. Note: If previously excluded stakeholders to provide a rational regarding why evidence should be considered.
* Naturopathy includes lots of modalities, therefore NHMRC has done extra work to include all modalities in Protocols. Timelines for submission of evidence for Naturopathy been extended from 21/1/2020 – 11/2/2020.
* Submission of citations via provided Template is required. Abstract can be useful.

## 5. Process – Tranche 2 Stakeholder organisations:

* Tranche 2 includes: Alexander technique, Aromatherapy, Bowen Therapy, Buteyko, Feldenkrais, Homeopathy, Iridology, Kinesiology, Reflexology and Rolfing.
* Expert Panel started work considering draft research protocols for Tranche 2.
* Call for submissions from Tranche 2 stakeholders expected to go out around mid. May 2020 with 4 weeks allowed for stakeholder organisation submission of evidence.

## 6. General discussion:

*Q: Will timeframes and processes be put on Department Website, including response from Government?* [A: Too soon for mapping out milestones and key dates. Once clearer will be put up on web – possibly after Mid. April].

*Q: Are there timelines for when work will be completed?* [A1: Not in a position to discuss at present. Rigor and robustness are central to this process, therefore still unclear on locking down dates on getting work done and reviews completed. A2: The Process must be done in a rigorous and robust manner, this may impact on timelines and therefore unable to determine clear dates at this time (i.e. before development process has been fully conducted)].

*Q: When will legislative process occur based on results of reviews?* [A: Can’t have a clear discussion on timelines at this stage – work has to be done [that will determine timelines]].

*Q: Once work (report) leaves Department how soon could Government Respond?* [A: Unclear but the Department conducting review will have responsibility for implementing any recommendations and will work with stakeholders to ensure practical responses].

*Q: Will as list of those stakeholder organisations engaged in teleconference today (31/1/2020) be published?* [A: Department will consider].

*Q: What will be admissible evidence? [*A: Not completed…] TELECONFERENE DROPPED OUT PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF RESPONSE ABOUT ADMISSABLE EVIDENCE.

1. It was not possible to record people’s names or all of the organisations represented due to speed of introductions. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)