



Bowen Therapists Federation of Australia
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Bowen Association of Australia
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6th April 2020

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister.Hunt@health.gov.au

Dear Minister Hunt,

Exclusion of Bowen therapists from practicing during COVID-19 pandemic

We write to you on behalf of the nearly 2,500 Bowen therapists in Australia, most of whom are represented by membership to the Bowen Therapists Federation of Australia and the Bowen Association of Australia.

We are seeking clarification on why some health care workers and natural therapists, including Bowen therapists, massage therapists, naturopaths and kinesiologists are no longer permitted to continue practicing during the COVID-19 pandemic as of 11.59pm 25 March 2020, while other government-registered, allied health modalities (including physiotherapists, chiropractors and acupuncturists) are.

It would seem that only AHPRA-registered health care workers are permitted to keep practicing during the COVID-19 pandemic. We consider this to be discriminatory and unfair.

Bowen therapy is a holistic remedial technique that aims to treat the cause of joint pain, muscle issues, sports injuries, ongoing or intermittent pain. As small businesses, Bowen therapists have built up a client base who may suffer emotionally and physically without their regular treatment. Many clients rely on Bowen therapy to keep them mobile and pain-free. Therapeutic and remedial bodywork techniques are distinct from day spas and massage parlours, whose emphasis is on providing relaxation massages.

In practicing Bowen therapy, we are able to follow the social distancing rules set by government as we have a short intake with each client (which can be conducted 1.5m apart) and only have contact with a client's body for less than 15 minutes at a time (another government guideline). We follow strict hygiene protocols and always have our clients' safety and wellbeing in mind.

The Department of Health & Human Services recently reversed their decision to again allow remedial massage and myotherapy practitioners to practice in Victoria, as noted on their website on 31/03/20. We urge the Federal Government to follow suit and allow remedial and therapeutic body workers to resume their practice as an essential service at this time, when it is much needed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Hartley".

Heather Hartley
President – Bowen Therapists Federation of Australia
And on behalf of Bowen Association Australia