

Statement – Bowen Therapy Federation of Australasia and Bowen Association Australia

Natural Therapies Review 2025 - Final Report and recommendations

The recent announcement by the Federal Government’s Natural Therapies Review, recommending that Bowen Therapy not be reinstated for private health insurance rebates, is greeted with disappointment and acquiescence by the Australian Bowen Therapy associations (Bowen Therapy Federation of Australasia and the Bowen Association Australia).

This was not an unexpected result. The joint submission compiled by the associations for the latest Review highlighted that whilst some additional studies had been published since the earlier Review in 2014, there had not been a substantial increase in the quantity or quality of evidence for the safety and efficacy of Bowen Therapy.

Recognising the importance of evidence-based practice for our profession, in 2020 the Bowen Therapy associations committed to a new era for Bowen Therapy. One that emphasises building research capacity within our organisations and the practitioner community, promotes research outputs linked to clinical practice, and embeds a rigorous research culture.

For the past four years the Bowen Therapy associations have actively invested in strategies to enable us to achieve these goals. Initiatives have included:

- Partnering with the University of Technology Sydney-based Australian Research Consortium in Complementary and Integrative Medicine
- Developing research capacity building leadership
- Developing a 10-year vision
- Forming a collaboration (across Australia and New Zealand) of Bowen Therapy associations and education institutions, to develop long-term strategy for the research capacity building initiative and to guide implementation initiatives in Australasia
- Reviewing and adapting educational resources.

We are reassured that these activities are taking us in the right direction, as Professor Jon Wardle highlights in his [article](#) in The Conversation: *“Even for those therapies that may be reintroduced, work will be needed to continue to improve practice, educational accreditation, registration... and better accountability of standards”*.

Guided by our academic partners and driven by the commitment and energy of our professional community, we envisage that into the future Bowen Therapy will be able to mount an argument for recognition and a ‘future role’ as an evidence-based form of natural therapy in complementary and mainstream health care settings.



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