

11 November 2009



Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists
PO Box 157
LISMORE NSW 2480

By email: submissions@aronah.org

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Proposed Independent Naturopathic and Herbalists Register

Thank you for providing the Office of Health Review with the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists.

Having provided comment on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law I have come to appreciate the benefits of establishing a National Registration Scheme for practitioners in Australia. From a complaints perspective I am of the view that ensuring that practitioners "have met a minimum standard of education that includes professional standards and ethics" is vital and can only be beneficial for both practitioners and consumers.

Currently, Naturopaths and Herbalists would fall within the Office of Health Review's jurisdiction by virtue of both professions providing a "health service" (as defined under section 3 of the *Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995*). Where a complaint has been made regarding either profession we would welcome the opportunity to (where appropriate) refer this information onto a Registration Board for its information. We would also welcome the opportunity to liaise with such a Board at various times of the year to identify the causes of complaints and to suggest ways of removing and minimising those causes.

Whilst I make no comment of the structure or practicalities of the scheme, in theory I am in favour of ARONAH's proposal as set out in its stakeholder strategy dated October 2009.

If you have any queries in relation to the above please contact me on 9323 0600.

Yours sincerely

Linley Anne Donaldson
DIRECTOR