

**Statement for ATMS stakeholders:
Thursday 11 August 2016**

In response to the case of Sydney woman, Ms Bodnar, who allegedly advised the mother of an eight-month-old baby boy to cease all medical and dermatological treatments, The Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS) unequivocally states that its Code of Conduct does not condone withdrawal from conventional treatment.

On Wednesday 10 August the mother of the child, who cannot be identified, was given a 14 month suspended jail sentence after pleading guilty to failing to provide for her child. Ms Bodnar has been charged with reckless grievous bodily harm and is expected to face a committal hearing Monday 15 August before Campbelltown Local Court. The matter was referred to the Health Care Complaints Commission earlier this year.

The practitioner who is the subject of these allegations was accredited with ATMS for Remedial Massage. She was not accredited with ATMS for Naturopathy and there are no records of her holding any qualifications in this area. The practitioner in question therefore is not qualified or recognised to practice Naturopathy and is working outside her scope of practice as a Remedial Massage therapist.

ATMS urges consumers to always seek out accredited practitioners of natural medicine. As Australia's largest association for natural medicine, ATMS is focused on ensuring the public's safety by providing a listing of qualified and accredited practitioners and their qualified modality. Consumers are advised that they may do so via associations and organisations such as [ATMS](#).

ATMS expresses concern over the harm of the child in these circumstances. As the court proceedings are still ongoing, ATMS cannot comment further on this matter.

-ends-