

ATMS Response to Sun Herald article

Monday, 25 November 2013

ATMS' response to the Sun Herald article titled:

“Medibank clamping down on remedial massage parlours offering rebates for sex services”

The Australian Traditional Medicine Society (ATMS) was greatly disturbed by the article that appeared on page one of the *Sun Herald* yesterday; Sunday 24 November 2013 entitled: *“Medibank clamping down on remedial massage parlours offering rebates for sex services.”*

The article was a result of a Fairfax Media investigation that followed the recent Medibank Private review into the qualifications and operations of remedial massage therapists. The review helped to identify individuals who were failing to comply with Medibank Private's rebate requirements.

While ATMS fully supports the need for practitioners to act professionally and comply with health fund rebate requirements, we feel that the publication of this article threatens the reputation and future of the vast majority of accredited, qualified and highly ethical remedial massage therapists.

ATMS agrees with the comment made by Medibank Private benefits risk manager Keith Joyce in the article: *“It is not fair to allow individuals who are doing the wrong thing to undermine the professional work of those remedial massage therapists doing the right thing.”*

ATMS President, Maggie Sands said: “ATMS members, across all accredited modalities, are subject to high-entry requirements and must undertake ‘continuing education’ to maintain their membership. We want to ensure that the actions of a few are not associated with and do not negatively affect the livelihood of those who are doing the right thing.

ATMS will continue to strongly support and represent our highly ethical remedial massage members and will do everything we can to ensure the general public understands the invaluable role that qualified and educated massage therapists can play in supporting the health and wellbeing of Australians.”

While ATMS will always push for full health fund rebates for all current and future members as to reduce the cost burden to the public, any member who is found to be misusing the health funds scheme will be immediately disqualified and reported.”

ATMS will continue to work with Medibank Private to ensure that any rebate changes are not restrictive and recognise the professionalism of our members.”

[Link to Sun Herald article](#)