

## **ATMS welcomes a new Review into the Natural Therapies excluded from Private Health Insurance Rebates**

The Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS) thanks the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health, and the Department of Health, for progressing this new review into the 16 Natural Therapies that were excluded from the Private Health Insurance rebates in April 2019.

Last week the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Review opened, calling for the Industry to submit evidence on the clinical effectiveness of any of the 16 Natural Therapies. The Review will be conducted in two tranches:

- Tranche one: Naturopathy, Western Herbalism, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates and Shiatsu; and
- Tranche two: Alexander Technique, Aromatherapy, Bowen Therapy, Buteyko, Feldenkrais, Homeopathy, Iridology, Kinesiology, Reflexology and Rolfing.

ATMS recommends that the Review focus on high-quality evidence, such as Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) and N-of-1 Trials, as well as Systematic Reviews. Further, this should not be limited to simply looking at the practise of the modality but rather look at the evidence that exists to support the use of Natural Therapies, in terms of vitamins, supplements and herbs.

Charles Wurf, CEO of ATMS, said; “It is particularly pleasing that the Review panel will incorporate industry experts in research and clinical practice, and that the Review will cover all 16 of the natural therapies in two stages.”

Natural Therapies are an important part of health care for many Australians, with 68.9% using some form of complementary medicine every year. In Australia, there are over 28,000 small businesses in this sector, employing some 35,000 people and generating revenue of \$4.7 billion annually.

Medical research databases, such as PubMed and EBSCO, hold over 2,000 RCTs on herbs and over 10,000 RCTs on vitamins and minerals.

ATMS is the leading professional Natural Therapies association in Australia, representing over 10,000 practitioners across more than 20 modalities.

The full announcement is available here: <https://consultations.health.gov.au/medical-benefits-division/natural-therapies-review-2019-20-membership-and-te>