



**Government
of South Australia**

07MHE/2464

Ms Fran Sheffield
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**Minister for Health
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Dear Ms Sheffield

Thank you for your letter of 26 July 2007 concerning the prophylactic use of homeopathic medicine to protect against meningococcal disease.

The South Australian Department of Health advises as follows:

The safety and effectiveness of homeopathic immunisation to prevent vaccine preventable diseases is unknown. Both the British Homeopathic Association and the Australian Register of Homeopaths recommend that people should receive conventional immunisations unless a medical condition precludes this.

Conventional medicines and vaccinations are thoroughly scrutinised, tested, evaluated and followed up for their safety and effectiveness. Homeopathic preparations do not undergo the same level of attention, and most homeopathic preparations have not been subjected to testing or approval through Government regulatory bodies, such as the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration or the United States Food and Drug Administration, which is standard practice for conventional vaccines.

No research can be found to demonstrate the effectiveness of homeopathic preparations for conventional vaccine preventable diseases. Unless reliable scientific research is conducted that clearly demonstrates the effectiveness and safety of homeopathic preparations in preventing infectious diseases, such preparations cannot and should not be recommended as an alternative to conventional immunisation.

Thank you for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jay Weatherill'.

Hon Jay Weatherill MP
A/MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1/8/2007