



Tasmania

MTS No: 37300

MINISTER for
HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES

13 AUG 2007

Ms Fran Sheffield
The Do No Harm Initiative Inc
26 Corona Lane
GLENNING VALLEY NSW 2261

Dear Ms Sheffield

Thank you for your letter of 26 July 2007, concerning homeopathic vaccines.

Immunisation is recognised as one of the most cost effective public health interventions in the health field. Currently used modern vaccines, not only provide a high level of protection to the individuals who receive them, they also more broadly help to provide protection to un-vaccinated susceptible groups in our community, by reducing the circulation of those vaccine-preventable diseases, that are transmissible from person to person.

As you may be aware, immunisation programs using current vaccines have the strong support of the World Health Organisation, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and a range of major national and international health authorities. The Council undertakes its advisory role on immunisation with the assistance of an extensive structure of committees, working parties and expert panels. While the NHMRC has the responsibility for providing advice on immunisation and undertaking a consultation process, on behalf of States and Territories, the Commonwealth's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has the overall responsibility for licensing vaccines for use in Australia. I am therefore advised that national expert groups are continually monitoring all vaccine types available in the market.

I am advised that the Department respects the fact that people are entitled to hold their views about the effectiveness of homeopathic immunisation. However, while there is clear scientific and medical evidence repeatedly demonstrating the effectiveness of current vaccines in protecting both individuals and the community against a range of serious vaccine preventable diseases, the efficacy of homeopathic vaccine products is yet to be established.

Thank you once again for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

Lara Giddings MHA
Minister for Health and Human Services