



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

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

Dear Ms Sheffield

Thank you for your letter dated 26th July 2007 to the Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Tony Abbott MP regarding Meningococcal disease and holistic (homeopathic) immunisation. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

To date there are no published studies in reputable peer reviewed scientific journals to support the claim that homeopathy is a safe and effective option for epidemic disease. There is no scientific basis to support effectiveness of any homeopathic preparation in preventing diseases targeted by conventional vaccines, while effectiveness by conventional vaccines is well established through large scale studies of their safety and efficacy.

I have read with interest the articles you have provided. However, it is interesting to note that not all homeopathic communities agree with the same approach. Many homeopathic practitioners support traditional immunisation to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases. The United Kingdom Medical Association for Homoeopathy recommends orthodox immunisation with standard vaccines, whilst the Society of Homeopaths in the United Kingdom does not encourage its members to advise patients against vaccination.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group (ATAGI), an expert advisory group on immunisation, provides information and recommendations to the Minister for Health and Ageing on the medical administration of vaccines. ATAGI considers the best quality clinical data on immunisation and vaccines available within Australia and internationally, and would consider rigorous data on homeopathic immunisation when available.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regulates the availability of products with therapeutic claims. You may find information on their website of use to you regarding the registration of vaccines in Australia. The TGA's website is located at <http://www.tga.health.gov.au/>

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Bourne'.

Jenny Bourne
Assistant Secretary
Targeted Prevention Programs Branch

20 August 2007