



Leader of natural medicine industry welcomes Health Minister's review of natural therapies rebate

On Sunday 7 April 2019, Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, MP announced that the Government will commission a new review of natural therapy rebates. The Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS) welcomes the review and will continue to lobby on behalf of natural medicine practitioners in Australia. Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, MP said in the announcement the review will "assess additional available evidence for natural therapies, undertake public consultation and provide advice to Government on whether certain natural therapies should be eligible for subsidy through the private health insurance rebate." ATMS plan to contribute to this public review and encourage practitioners and consumers alike to actively participate in the consultation processes once formally announced. After more than a year of campaigning, Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS, embraces this decision for further review. "We have been vigorously advocating to Government to reconsider the removal of certain natural therapies from the private health insurance rebates. The announcement from Minister Hunt to activate a new review is a good one. ATMS will work closely with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and continue to actively support and promote the return of natural medicine therapies to private health insurance," said Mr Wurf. ATMS is the leading professional natural medicine association in Australia representing over 10,000 practitioners across more than 20 therapies. -ENDS- The full announcement is available here:

<https://www.greghunt.com.au/review-of-natural-therapies-for-private-health-insurance/> NOTES TO EDITORS: Interviews and comments are available upon request via the contacts below. Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS Christine Pope, Director, ATMS and Naturopath For media enquiries please contact: Jessica McLean, Senior Account Manager, Zadro P: 0400 433 182 E: jessica@zadroagency.com.au Debbie Bradley, Group Account Director, Zadro P: 0420 761 189 E: debbie@zadroagency.com.au Image: Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS About Natural Medicine Week: Natural Medicine Week, 20 – 26 May 2019, aims to promote, educate and raise awareness of the important role natural medicine practitioners play in the health and wellbeing of Australians. Proudly supported by the Australian Traditional-Medicine Society, Natural Medicine Week celebrates the three primary models of natural medicine: Ingestive Therapies, Bodywork and Massage, and Chinese Medicine. www.naturalmedicineweek.com.au About the Australian Traditional-Medicine Society: The Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS) is the leader of the natural medicine industry, promoting and representing professional practitioners of natural medicine, who are encouraged to pursue the highest ideals of professionalism in their natural medicine practice and education. As Australia's largest national professional association for natural medicine practitioners, ATMS is a multi-disciplinary association representing over 10,000 accredited practitioners throughout Australia. ATMS was founded in 1984 and is an incorporated not-for-profit company. In 2014 ATMS celebrated their 30th anniversary representing natural medicine practitioners in Australia. ATMS is governed by a Board of Directors, with specialised departments for Massage Therapy, Chinese Medicine, Homeopathy, Nutrition, Naturopathy and Western Herbal Medicine. www.atms.com.au

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