



Natural medicine industry welcomes Wentworth victory for Dr Kerryn Phelps

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The largest Australian body representing 10,000 natural medicine practitioners, The Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS), today welcomed the historic victory for Dr Kerryn Phelps on securing her seat in Wentworth following the by-election. Dr Phelps recently spoke at a Candidates Forum in Wentworth hosted by ATMS with Angela Vithoulkhas, Licia Heath and Shayne Higson. The candidates presented their positions on natural medicine, healthcare and small business with strong support from all candidates for complementary medicine, recognising its current role as a viable option for the health and wellbeing of Australians. ATMS are thrilled that Dr Phelps has gained the seat and support her principles of continued coverage of natural therapies within health funds, despite changes being implemented by the current Government. Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS stated, "The election of a candidate who is supportive of complementary medicine is critical in this current environment seeking to remove subsidies for private health insurance. Further changes forecast by the recently announced Labor policy would seek to remove the GST exemption for naturopathy and herbal medicine treatments." "ATMS maintains that restricting the choice of natural medicine treatments available within health insurance will prove a false economy. Policies targeted at limiting effective, proven natural medicine treatments will lead to greater pressure on public health and public hospitals," finished Mr Wurf. ATMS looks forward to working with Dr Phelps and like-minded, committed Parliamentarians to ensure natural medicine treatments are available as effective, viable choices within the Australian healthcare and wellness system. To see how ATMS are representing natural medicine professionals in Australia, visit: www.atms.com.au -Ends- NOTES TO EDITORS: Interviews with: Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS, are available on request through the below contacts For media enquiries please contact: Debbie Bradley, Group Account Director, Zadro P: 02 9212 7867 | debbie@zadroagency.com.au Sinead Andrews, Account Coordinator, Zadro P: 02 9212 7867 | sinead@zadroagency.com.au Image: Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS 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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