



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



Expert committee members and terms of references announced on complementary medicines in health system

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The Federal Government today announced a list of 16 members who will form the expert committee to examine complementary medicines in the health care system.

Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Trish Worth, today also released the terms of reference for the committee.

Ms Worth said the eminent group appointed to the committee covered all aspects of the complementary medicines industry - including academic, clinical and industry experts.

"The expert committee, to be chaired by Dr Michael Bollen AM, will focus on issues around the supply of safe, high quality complementary medicines, quality use of and timely access to these medicines, and the maintenance of a responsible and viable complementary medicines industry."

Ms Worth said that under the terms of reference, the committee will consider the regulatory, health system and industry structures necessary to ensure that the central objectives of the National Medicines Policy are met in relation to complementary medicines.

"The committee will examine and provide advice on regulatory controls covering appropriate standards of quality, safety and efficacy, consumer information, education and training of health care practitioners, interactions between complementary and prescribed medicines, restrictions on advertising, and activities to promote an innovative, responsible and viable complementary medicines industry," Ms Worth said.

"The Pan Pharmaceuticals recall has highlighted the importance of preventing or deterring deliberate or reckless breaches of standards and conditions applicable to the manufacture of medicines in order to protect the health and safety of the Australian public," Ms Worth said.

"The establishment of this committee will go a long way towards giving the public and all health care practitioners confidence that the Government is taking the necessary steps to examine the role of complementary medicines in the health care system, while encouraging the continuation of Australia's reputation as a supplier of high quality and safe medicines."

The committee will report back to the Commonwealth Government by mid August.

The list of committee members and Terms of Reference are below.

Media contact: Mark Williams ph 0401 147 558

Expert committee on complementary medicines in the health system

Terms of Reference

The Expert Committee will consider the regulatory, health system and industry structures necessary to ensure that the central objectives of the National Medicines Policy are met in relation to complementary medicines. The supply of safe, high quality and efficacious complementary medicines, the quality use of and timely access to these medicines and the maintenance of a responsible and viable complementary medicines industry are important objectives for Governments, healthcare practitioners, consumers and industry.

The Expert Committee will examine and provide advice on:

- The national system of regulatory controls required to ensure that complementary medicines meet appropriate standards of quality, safety and efficacy;
- The information needs of consumers of complementary medicines;
- The education, training, and regulation requirements for healthcare practitioners who are supplying complementary medicines and/or providing advice or delivering care to consumers of complementary medicines;
- The potential for interaction between complementary medicines and prescribed medicines used by consumers and the means to provide this information to healthcare practitioners;
- The nature and extent of restrictions required on advertising (including internet advertising) of complementary medicines to consumers; and
- The regulatory and industry activities necessary to promote an innovative, responsible and viable complementary medicines industry in Australia.

The Expert Committee is to report to the Government by 15 August 2003.

Expert committee on complementary medicines in the health system

Committee members

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Dr Michael Bollen (Chair)	Member of the National Health and Medical Research Council Principal, BMP Healthcare Consulting Pty Ltd	Quality use of medicines, healthcare delivery, consumer medicines information and general medical practice
Professor Bill Webster	Department of Anatomy and Histology, University of Sydney Member, Complementary Medicines Evaluation Committee	Toxicology and the safety of complementary medicines
Associate Professor Alan Bensoussan	Centre for Complementary Medicine Research, University of Western Sydney Member, Expert Advisory Panel on Complementary Medicines	Use and evaluation of complementary medicines and therapies in clinical practice; practitioner education and training
Professor Stephen Myers	Director, Australian Centre for Complementary Medicine Education and Research, Southern Cross University/ University of Queensland Member, Complementary Medicines Evaluation Committee	Use and evaluation of complementary medicines in medical practice; practitioner education and training
Associate Professor Heather Yeatman	Graduate School of Public Health, University of Wollongong Member, Complementary Medicines Evaluation Committee Member, Food Standards Australia New Zealand Board	Consumer issues associated with the use of complementary medicines, food and nutrition
Ms Juliet Seifert	Executive Director, Australian Self-Medication Industry	Quality use of medicines and industry issues, including complementary medicines
Mr Ross Johnston	Vice President Manufacturing Operations Asia Pacific Wyeth	Quality assurance in the manufacture of complementary, OTC and prescription medicines
Associate Professor John Eden	University of New South Wales, School of Women's and Children's Health	Use of complementary medicines and therapies in medical practice, particularly in women's health
Professor Alistair MacLennan	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Adelaide	Complementary medicine epidemiology and safety of complementary medicines
Dr Kerry Breen	Chair, NHMRC Australian Health Ethics Committee	Ethical issues associated with the promotion and use of medicines
Dr John Aloizos	Chair, Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council	Implementation of all aspects of National Medicines Policy and general medical practice
Mr David Macleod	Naturopath, Fellow with the Australian acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association	Use of complementary medicines in complementary medicine practice; practitioner education and training
Mr Anthony Nunan	Principal - Parade Pharmacy; Nunan's Watsonia Pharmacy; Heath's Road Medical Clinic Pharmacy Chairman - Australian Medicines Handbook	Small business issues; quality use of medicines; postgraduate pharmacist education and training; pharmacy
Mr Darin Walters	Chief Executive Officer; Blackmores Ltd	Complementary medicines industry

**Two additional members will be confirmed shortly. They will represent the views of state and territory health authorities, and expertise in medical education and evaluation of efficacy and clinical pharmacology.*