

Alan Kirkland
CEO Choice
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Marrickville, NSW, 2204
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Dear Alan,

Re: Resignation as the Choice representative on the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Consultative Committee

I have documented concerns about the Australian regulation of therapeutic goods advertising and complementary medicines over many years (publications appended).

As the Choice representative on the former Complaint Resolution Panel and Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Council and, more recently the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Consultative Committee (TGACC), I have attempted to improve the system from within.

I had hoped that my involvement and advocacy would encourage the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to focus more on consumer protection and less on industry assistance.

However, like others, I have concluded that my efforts have largely been a failure; that, given its current leadership, the TGA will not change, and there is no point in any further involvement. Hence my resignation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Harvey', written in a cursive style.

Dr Ken Harvey MB BS, FRCPA, AM
35A Mary St
Hawthorn, Vic, 3122
M: 0419 181 910

28 October 2020

Cc.

- Hon Greg Hunt, Minister for Health,
- Hon Chris Bowen, Shadow Minister for Health,
- TGACC.

Relevant publications

1. Harvey K. Promotion of newer antimicrobial agents. *Med J Aust* 1983; 1: 27-8.
2. Darvall L, Harvey KJ. Australian pharmaceutical advertising: a critique (Editorial). *Med J Aust* 1985; 2:272-274.
3. Roughead EE, Gilbert AL, Harvey KJ. Self-regulatory codes of conduct: are they effective in controlling pharmaceutical representatives' presentations to general medical practitioners? *Int J Health Serv* 1998; 28: 269-279.
4. Roughead EE, Harvey KJ, Gilbert AL. Commercial detailing techniques used by pharmaceutical representatives to influence prescribing. *Aust NZ J Med* 1998; 28: 306- 310.
5. Harvey K. Pharmaceutical Advertisements in Prescribing Software: What Should be Done? *Health Issues*, 2006; 87: 11-15.
6. Harvey KJ, Korczak VS, Marron LJ, Newgreen DB. Commercialism, choice, and consumer protection: regulation of complementary medicines in Australia. *Med J Aust* 2008; 188 (1): 21-25.
7. Harvey K. Controlling complementary medicine claims (Editorial). *Aust Prescr* 2008; 31: 142-3.
8. Harvey K. Australian Complementary Medicine Regulation: Time for Reform! *Health Issues* 2009; 5: 18-22.
9. Harvey K. A review of proposals to reform the regulation of complementary medicines. *Aust Health Rev* 2009; 33(2); 279-285.
10. Harvey K. Transparency and the Therapeutic Goods Administration. *Aust Prescr* 2013; 36:110-1.
11. Harvey K. Pharmacists should drop products that aren't backed by evidence. *The Conversation*, March 21, 2013.
12. Harvey K, Voevodin M. Regulations around food-medicine products fail to protect consumers. *The Conversation*, May 21, 2013.
13. Harvey K. Advertising battleground. *MJA Insight*, July 15, 2013.
14. Harvey K. We can't have it both ways on homeopathy. *ABC The Drum*, 10 April 2014.
15. Harvey K, Kovacs A, Jackel G. Krill oil marketing: a case study of Australia's broken regulations. *The Conversation*, Feb 6, 2015.
16. Harvey K, Yan A, Latham, N. Don't believe the hype – your complementary medicines are unlikely to deliver, *The Conversation*, Dec 14, 2015.
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18. Harvey K. Open debate needed for TGA to regain trust. *MJA Insight*. Nov 7, 2016.
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20. Harvey K. Which supplements work? New labels may help separate the wheat from the chaff. *The Conversation*, February 21, 2017.
21. Harvey K, Li E, Stanton R, Dashper S. Kids' vitamin gummies: unhealthy, poorly regulated, and exploitative. *The Conversation*, May 29, 2017.
22. Harvey K. New complementary medicine health claims lack evidence, so why are they even on the table? *The Conversation*, July 21, 2017.
23. Harvey, K. Regulation of complementary medicines. *Intern Med J* 2017; 47: 983–985. doi:10.1111/imj.13548.
24. Harvey K. Science or Snake Oil: will horseradish and garlic really ease a cold? *The Conversation*, November 27, 2017.
25. Harvey K, Arnold B. Scrapping pre-approval of medicine ads will put consumers at risk. *The Conversation*, January 25, 2018.
26. Harvey K, Deane J. Science or Snake Oil: do 'rescue remedies' ease stress? *The Conversation*, July 31, 2018.

27. Harvey K, Asher A, Braithwaite J. Tangled web around the TGA (2017 Measures No. 1) Bill 2017. MJA Insight 19 February 2018.
28. Harvey K Stehlik P. Science or Snake Oil: do hangover cures actually work? The Conversation, November 16, 2018.
29. Harvey K, et al. Vitamins and Supplements. SBS Insight, 12 March 2019.
30. Harvey K. TGA fails to act on Palmer's hydroxychloroquine advertisements. Pearls and Irritations, 7 May 2020.
31. Harvey K. The Therapeutic Goods Administration must do better. Pearls and Irritations, 10 July 2020.
32. Vickers M, Harvey K. Complementary medicines advertising policy Part I: unethical conduct in the Australian market before July 2018. Aust Health Rev 2020; doi:10.1071/AH19267.
33. Harvey KJ, Vickers M, Arnold B. Complementary medicines advertising policy Part II: unethical conduct in the Australian market after July 2018; Aust Health Rev 2020; doi:10.1071/AH20047.
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