

Technical Alert

Health Care Complaints Committee Inquiry: Focused on individuals who are not recognised health practitioners

Dear Member,

The CHC is invited by the Committee on the Healthcare Complaints Commission to make a submission to their Inquiry into the promotion of unscientific or false and misleading health-related information or practices. The inquiry will focus on individuals who are not recognised health practitioners and organisations that are not recognised health service providers.

The Inquiry has been prompted by concerns about the possible lack of appropriate oversight of individuals and organisations that publish or disseminate information of a 'purportedly medical nature that may not only be contrary to accepted medical practice, but which may be harmful to individual public health'.

The Committee will have regard to ensuring the powers of the Health Care Complaints Commission are sufficient and appropriate in addressing concerns raised about the oversight of health-related activities by organisations that provide false and misleading advice with potentially harmful consequences.

The Inquiry is **not** focused on the many complementary medicines adopted as part of responsible complementary healthcare. Nor will it inquire into the many legitimate discussions and studies taking place within the science community about effective health treatment options.

The CHC will be submitting to the Inquiry the current status of recognition of complementary healthcare professionals, the systems and controls in place for these professions and associated advertising provisions.

The CHC welcomes your questions regarding this Inquiry.

Please contact Emma Burchell at submissions@chc.org.au or call 02 6260 4022.

Regards,
Emma Burchell