



APLF COMMUNIQUE – SEPTEMBER 2015

The Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) represents the peak professional bodies for pharmacy. The Forum most recently met on 14 September 2015 in Sydney. The Forum agreed on the following:

Position Statement on Homeopathy

In response to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) report on homeopathy, published in March 2015, the members of the APLF unanimously agreed to prepare a position statement to establish a firm position in this area.

At the September meeting of the Forum, all members agreed to the Position Statement on Homeopathy which states that the pharmacy professional organisations support the NHMRC findings of the lack of effectiveness of homeopathy in treating health conditions. It also states that pharmacists should not recommend, sell or support the use of homeopathic treatments.

The Position Statement is attached.

Strategic Directions for the Forum for 2016

Members of the Forum reflected on the recent Workforce Summit held in June 2015 in Melbourne, and agreed that ongoing work was required by the sector to identify the supply and demand trends of the workforce. This work will be further progressed by the Forum as part of its 2016 strategic work plan, along with work on prescribing and expanded roles for pharmacists.

Revision of the APLF Charter and new name – ‘Leaders’ Forum

Members of the Forum reviewed the charter and from the next meeting agreed the Forum should be called the Australian Pharmacy **Leaders** Forum, a change from the current Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum.

Professor Iqbal Ramzan

Chair

Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum

References

NHRMC Statement and Advice on Homeopathy

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/media_releases/nhmrc_releases_statement_and_advice_on_homeopathy140311.pdf



Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum
c/o The Australian Pharmacy Council Ltd
PO Box 269
Civic Square ACT 2608

Media Contact:
Professor Iqbal Ramzan
Chair
aplf@pharmacycouncil.org.au



Position Statement

APLF Recognises the Lack of Evidence for Homeopathy

The Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) supports the use of evidence-based medicine as the basis for clinical decision-making for best outcomes for the Australian public.

The APLF supports the findings of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) findings of the lack of effectiveness of homeopathy in treating health conditions.

The position of the APLF is:

1. The professions' Code of Ethics requires a pharmacist to recognise the health and wellbeing of the consumer as their first priority.
2. Pharmacists should not recommend or support the sale of homeopathic treatments.
3. Pharmacists should advise consumers that they may put their health at risk if they reject or delay treatments for which there is good evidence for safety and effectiveness.
4. Homeopathic alternatives should not be used in place of conventional immunisation.

Dated 21 September 2015

References: NHRMC Statement and Advice on Homeopathy

http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/media_releases/nhmrc_releases_statement_and_advice_on_homeopathy140311.pdf

The Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum is independent coalition of senior decision-makers from national pharmacy organisations who work together on issues of national importance to the pharmacy profession and the public.

