

4-5-05

To: The Secretary
Senate Committee on Community Affairs
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600



Dear Secretary,

Re: Treatment Options for Cancer

I haven't seen the terms of reference for your enquiry, but having studied complementary cancer therapies for some years I would like to comment.

In general, & it applies to cancer also, natural & complementary medicines are safer, as or more effective, & cheaper than orthodox pharmaceutical drugs.

According to the ~~A~~ Journal of the American Medical Association, adverse reactions to approved pharmaceutical drugs is one of the leading causes of death in the USA (& possibly Australia too).

The power of the big pharmaceutical companies, combined with misplaced ~~ideology~~ ideologies of some in powerful positions in the community has resulted in a distorted health (sickness) system which operates to the benefit of pharmaceutical companies at the expense of the general community. There is ample evidence that safe & effective, but unpatentable cancer therapies have been suppressed by vested interest groups.

Currently in Australia there is a proposal, via the Codex Alimentarius system, to overregulate natural medicines, even simple minerals & vitamins, to the (planned) effect of ~~making them unavailable~~

reducing their availability & increasing their cost to the general public. With public health costs soaring, instead of constraining access, the Government should be encouraging citizens access to natural & complementary products, which they buy from their own pocket, costing the Government nothing.

If anything, we need less regulation, not more, especially cancer patients should be allowed to access any medicine they wish & are prepared to pay for.

In addition, for the treatment of cancer patients, medical practitioners & other ^{registered} health professionals such as naturopaths should be able to treat their cancer patients to the best of their ability in any way they & their patients see fit without fear of professional & legal harassment within some sort of reasonable framework. There is a great need to encourage multi-modality healing centres for cancer patients.

Prevention is better than cure, & I suggest the Government consider, among other preventive measures, establishing a pilot project to subsidise, for say people over 40 years, a supplement 'cocktail' of known cancer-preventive substances such as Se, (mixed) Vitamins E, Cr, several other minerals & vitamins. This I suggest would have a substantial effect in reducing cancer cases.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

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