

21st March, 2005

The Secretary
Senate Community Affairs References Committee
Suite S1 59
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Sir/Madam

INQUIRY INTO SERVICES AND TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH CANCER

In December, last year, a group of forty concerned Australians, including medical general practitioners, complementary health practitioners and others, apprehensive about the future direction of the health industry in their country, met at a specially convened conference to discuss the issue of freedom of choice in health.

Much of the debate at the conference centred on the concern that the freedom of an individual to choose their preferred form of health treatment was being steadily eroded through legislation and regulation. Concerns were also expressed that ultimately, real options, or choices would be denied to the individual unless a major education program was implemented to raise awareness of the issue, and in turn, ensure the public has a voice.

As a direct outcome of the conference, *Health Liberté International* was established as an advocacy group, to ensure that all Australians have the necessary knowledge, and access, in order to make considered decisions about the health care that they want. It is intended that *Health Liberté International* will raise funds to increase community awareness of all credible forms of mainstream and natural medical treatment, and, advance natural healing research to raise awareness of the benefits of non-traditional medicine.

One of the goals of *Health Liberté International* is linked irrevocably to the management and prevention of cancer, through integrative health treatments. *Health Liberté International* recognises that there is significant public concern, regarding the lack of availability of information and education in the area of integrated management of cancer treatment and intends to work with interested groups in fostering and promoting these concepts. Further, *Health Liberté International* is working towards establishing an Integrative Cancer Research Foundation, to consider the prevention and treatment of cancer through methods of natural healing.

In the public domain, the most recognised and accepted treatments for cancer include chemotherapy, radiation and pharmaceutical drugs. Whilst there is growing concern worldwide that these treatments are limited in their capacity to prevent and ultimately cure cancer, there is a body of evidence that

supports their efficacy, which in turn, reduces the risk of litigation and ensures the support of politicians and public alike.

Meanwhile there is a wide range of natural treatments and therapies on trial throughout the world. Each of these treatments has varying degrees of supporting research to establish their credentials, in some cases anecdotal, in others, hard clinical proof. Such ad hoc evidence significantly impacts on the credibility of these treatments in the community. Currently, there is no organisation, anywhere in the world, which is dedicated to the function of gathering and analysing existing research information into natural treatments, and in turn, using that information as the basis for forming decisions on funding additional research.

Health Liberté International is vitally concerned about the outcome of this Inquiry and seeks the opportunity to present, at the time of the public hearings, arguments for the immediate establishment of an Integrative Cancer Research Foundation. It is proposed that such a Foundation would have the capacity to analyse, foster and implement research, both clinical, and non clinical, into the prevention and cure of cancer through methods of natural and integrated healing.

Health Liberté International can be contacted through Allan Bonsall on 07 3395 7358, 0414 632 116, or PO Box 7047 East Brisbane, 4169, Queensland, email, abonsall@optusnet.com.au

Yours faithfully

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