

Natural Food Commission

WHAT DOES THE NZ NATURAL HEALTH AND SUPPLEMENTARY PRODUCTS BILL SAY?

A close examination of the wording of the Bill reveals a draconian regulatory regime that violates our human rights and goes beyond the scope of the law in every other country in the world today.

1) WHAT WILL BE REGULATED? (Clause 5)

The Act will regulate any product that when consumed:

Maintains or promotes health or wellness

Provides nutritional support

Maintains the structure or function of the body

Relieves symptoms

Provides vitamins or minerals

2) WHO WILL BE REGULATED (Clause 35)

Every provider of natural health products must apply and pay annual fees to register their products. The scale of fees published at this stage are beyond the means of many small businesses

3) WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE REGISTRATION (Clause 13)

Rigorous scientific evidence of efficacy will be required if a product claims to benefit *any disease, disorder, condition, ailment, or defect*.

4) WHO WILL DO THE REGULATION (Clause 10)

A new Authority appointed by the Minister of Health

5) WHAT WILL BE PROHIBITED (Clauses 11/12/16/20/21)

Any ingredient that does not appear on the Authority's approved list of ingredients

Any product that the Authority thinks may pose a risk *for any reason they consider to be relevant*

Any product that the Authority judges to have been sold with an unsubstantiated health claim

6) WILL TRADITIONAL MEDICINE BE EXEMPTED (Clauses 12/13)

Evidence of safe traditional use will only be sufficient *for low risk conditions, such as indigestion*

7) WILL YOU BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE HEALTH BENEFITS TO OTHERS (Clause 40C)

Any person may not publish, send, email, or communicate in any way in either written, spoken, pictorial, or printed form any health benefit claim that suggests directly or by implication that a natural health product can assist in the treatment of any health condition.

8) WILL THERE BE PENALTIES (Clause 40)

up to \$100,000 and five years in jail for an individual

up to \$500,000 for a company

9) HOW WILL THIS AFFECT YOU?

a) Many products that are in reality just healthy foods will now be banned (see 1)

b) Costs of natural products will rise and small businesses will cease operations (see 2)

c) Healthy products will be controlled as if they are pharmaceuticals with testing requirements that only large corporations could possibly afford (see 3)

d) Some appointees at the Ministry of Health will regulate all your health choices (see 4)

e) The NZ list currently proposed and published by the Ministry of Health excludes thousands of traditional herbs and minerals that have been used safely for millennia (see 5)

f) Traditional medicines will disappear as has happened in Australia and many thousands of people who rely on natural medicine to maintain their health will be disadvantaged (see 6)

g) Providers will not be able to speak about or advertise the health benefits of their products, nor may anyone discuss them publicly. This is a major curtailment of our freedom of speech (see 7)

h) Natural health practitioners will be stopped from practicing through fear of punishment. The only health consultations available will be with GPs who know little about natural remedies (see 8)

Don't make the mistake of thinking that this Bill will not be enforced. People with extreme agendas will ensure that it is enforced and they will have the law on their side unless you act now.

Contact your MP now to express your outrage before the Bill becomes law

Natural Food Commission

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Dear Friends

It is an extraordinary step for our government to seek to control and drastically restrict our natural health choices. As a nation we are in the midst of a health crisis characterised by increased incidence of cancer, diabetes, asthma, allergies, heart disease, anxiety, stress, and many other chronic illnesses. At the same time, health costs are rising so rapidly that they are consuming more and more of our national budget every year. Many needy patients are being denied treatment. We are not unique. Every nation in the world is facing a similar crisis, but the response is different in other countries.

In USA, for example, over 50% of the population suffer from chronic illness and over 100,000 deaths per annum are attributed to the side effects of 'correctly prescribed' allopathic pharmaceutical medicines. In response, there is a growing realisation that natural health practitioners are offering solutions to the health care crisis. 50% of all health care consultations are now with alternative or complementary practitioners. Medical doctors can receive professional credits if they take courses in complementary medicine. NIH (the National Institute of Health) is funding extensive research into the benefits of complementary approaches. In just one example, \$20 million of NIH research funding has shown that one complementary approach can reduced high blood pressure, heart disease, and prolong life more than any conventional pharmaceutical approaches.

Now contrast this with the approach being adopted here in New Zealand. The Natural Health and Supplementary Products Bill comes up for its third reading very soon. The Bill in its present form will ensure our health choices are severely limited. A vast number of products and approaches will disappear overnight. Natural Health practitioners will be gagged from explaining the health benefits their services and products confer. Many traditional systems of preventative and balancing approaches to health, such as Ayurveda, used effectively and safely for thousands of years, will disappear. This Bill will ensure that NZ has the most restrictive approach to regulating Natural Products in the world.

After reading the information overleaf, we expect you will share our sense of outrage. How is it that cigarettes that cause thousands of deaths annually are continuing to be sold, while our MPs are wasting time and money on a vast scale to ban simple home remedies, traditional health practices, and even foods? Now is the time to contact your MP directly to express your concerns. If you need more detailed information contact us and we will be happy to provide a copy of our submission to the Ministry of Health opposing this Bill which contains a detailed analysis of its effects and suggested alterations to the Bill.

We hope you can take the time to read this and contact your MP before it is too late. We cannot assume that the simple freedom to make our own health choices will be there for us tomorrow unless we make our voice heard.

With very best wishes

Dr Guy Hatchard