

Herbalists Applaud Complementary Medicine Report

The National Herbalist's Association of Australia (NHAA), the peak organisation representing herbalists and naturopaths in Australia, applauds the National Institute of Complementary Medicines' report on complementary medicines and its potential to save millions of dollars in the Australian health budget. This report is crucial to foster developments towards an integrative medicine model in Australia.

"It is interesting that the release of this report coincides with the celebration of National Herbal Medicine Week" (NHMW) says John Baxter, President of NHAA. "Herbalists and naturopaths have been practising using these medicines for many years now and if we had not been using these medicines their use would have been lost to medicine completely." Herbal medicine is the base of many modern pharmaceutical drugs and blending the two health sectors together will enable greater consumer choice in health care.

The NHAA has been lobbying for regulation since 1925 and feels it is important to see researchers and public health advocates recognising the contribution of complementary medicines in our community. "This report gives greater credibility to complementary medicines and to the work of professional herbalists and naturopaths generally." Baxter added.

Given the outcomes of this report, governments across Australia must embrace complementary medicine and support its practitioners to enhance the health and well being of all Australians.

National Herbal Medicine Week (NHMW) is being celebrated across Australia with many events planned throughout the week. For more details, please visit www.nhaa.org.au.

NHMW is gaining momentum each year as Herbalists take their medicines and professional practices to the people of Australia with information events, presentations, celebrations, and garden walks.

The NHAA has represented professional herbalists and naturopaths since 1920. It has been pursuing regulation these professions to provide the public a means of determining appropriately trained professionals. The NHAA sets the precedent of high standards of education and professional practice for naturopaths and herbalists within Australia.

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