

**National Therapies Review Expert Advisory Panel**  
**Meeting Outcomes**  
**11 September 2019**

The [Natural Therapies Review 2019-20](#) will examine additional evidence which has emerged since the 2014-15 review and provide advice to Government on whether any of the natural therapies should be covered by private health insurance and therefore eligible for subsidy through the Private Health Insurance Rebate.

On 11 September 2019, the [National Therapies Review Expert Advisory Panel](#) held its first meeting. The following is a summary of the outcomes arising from the meeting.

### **Terms of reference**

- The Advisory Panel noted the [terms of reference](#).

### **Stakeholder engagement**

- The Advisory Panel noted that stakeholder engagement would include:
  - the secretariat (Department of Health) facilitating regular teleconferences with interested stakeholders to provide updates on the Review; and
  - the use of the [secretariat mailbox](#) for all correspondence about the Review.

### **Timeline**

- The Advisory Panel noted the proposed timeline for the Review, including a second meeting anticipated to occur in November 2019.

### **Role of the National Health and Medical Research Council**

- The Advisory Panel noted the overview of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) governance arrangements for the evidence evaluations, including the establishment of a Natural Therapies Working Committee to oversee the evaluations, which includes mutual membership of Associate Professor Wardle and Professor Bensoussan.
- There was discussion about the draft methodology for the evidence evaluations, with the Advisory Panel providing advice to the NHMRC to ensure the relevant databases, search terms, and time periods are included in the research protocols.
- The Advisory Panel indicated it would appreciate an opportunity to comment on the draft Research Protocols developed by the reviewer.

### **Private health insurance regulatory framework**

- The Advisory Panel noted the regulatory framework for private health insurance.
- There was discussion about the prohibition on private health insurers paying benefits for natural therapies under health management plans, while benefits under such plans were permitted for treatment which primarily takes the form of sport, recreation or entertainment.