Natural Therapies Review Expert Advisory Panel
Meeting Outcomes
17 August 2021

On 17 August 2021, the Natural Therapies Review Expert Advisory Panel (NTREAP) held its fifth meeting by videoconference. The following is a summary of the outcomes arising from the meeting.

Member interests

- The NTREAP noted that:
  - the Chair had assessed all member submitted interests and was of the view no members had a conflict which would preclude them from participating in discussions of any of the therapies under review; and
  - the Review process was rigorous including many checks and balances and opportunities for stakeholder and expert input.

Progress and timing of the Review

- The NTREAP noted the:
  - further extended timeframes for the Review until late 2022;
  - draft evidence evaluations are nearing completion for Rolfing and Pilates with shiatsu and tai chi anticipated next;
  - procurement of evidence reviewers for remainder of Tranche 2 was still in progress for Alexander Technique, Buteyko, Bowen Therapy, Feldenkrais, kinesiology, iridology and reflexology; and
  - next meeting of the NTREAP is planned for late September/ early October 2021, and is likely to focus on consideration of:
    - Tranche 1 draft evidence evaluation reports (Rolfing and Pilates); and
    - Tranche 2 further draft research protocols.

Evidence evaluation report structure

- The NTREAP noted that:
  - while the structure is appropriate there is some variability in the treatment across therapy protocols, for example in the level of data extraction, and some further consideration will be given to increased consistency; and
  - the naturopathy executive summary will not include yoga, iridology or homeopathy as the Natural Therapies Working Committee have decided to only include core modalities as taught in Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency approved curriculums.

Homeopathy draft research protocol

- The NTREAP noted:
  - some members raised the issue of engagement of Health Technology Analysts as the evidence reviewer for the homeopathy evidence evaluation;
  - the NHMRC procurement was very comprehensive and included assessment that HTA represented the best 'value for money', a broad concept which includes consideration of the service provider's expertise, ability to produce the product required and previous work;
  - the review process is very different to the 2015 review and is more rigorous with opportunities for NTREAP and other experts to scrutinise HTA's work;
  - a document would be prepared to demonstrate the rigor of the Review.