[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 July 2017 11:30 AM
To: HPRG Parliamentary
Subject: RE: URGENT CAMPAIGN RESPONSE: COMB cleared input - VERY URGENT MIN CAMPAIGN RESPONSE: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks [redacted] Looks good to me.

[redacted]

From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** HPRG Parliamentary
Sent: Wednesday, 19 July 2017 10:45 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: URGENT CAMPAIGN RESPONSE: COMB cleared input - VERY URGENT MIN CAMPAIGN RESPONSE: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Importance: High

Dear [redacted]

Please find attached the draft of the campaign response re. reforms for homeopathy products.

As discussed yesterday, I have added some additional words to [redacted] cleared response below (see TRIM link D17-597857).

For your comment clearance by noon today, please.

FYI, I am still waiting on words from PBD re. reimbursement/insurance etc.

Thanks
[redacted]

TGA Parliamentary
Ministerial Correspondence / Ministerial Submissions
Ministerial Briefs/QTBs
[redacted]

Reporting and Collaborative Services Section
Regulatory Engagement & Planning Branch
Health Products Regulation Group
Mobile: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Therapeutic Goods Administration
Department of Health
PO Box 100
Woden ACT 2606 Australia
www.tga.gov.au

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 July 2017 10:01 AM
To: HPRG Parliamentary
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: COMB cleared input - VERY URGENT MIN CAMPAIGN RESPONSE: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Importance: High

Hi [redacted]

Please see below COMB input for the campaign as cleared by [redacted] *thanks!*

The Government are not removing all complementary medicines from therapeutic goods legislation, in September 2016 the Government agreed to recommendations made by the Expert Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation (MMDR Review). As part of this program of work, the TGA conducted an initial public consultation on a range of high level options on the possible future regulation of a variety of low risk therapeutic goods, including homoeopathic products. The options explored for all identified product types ranged from maintaining the status quo to removal from the TGA's regulatory framework altogether. Any new regulatory arrangements that may be specifically proposed for homoeopathic products in the coming months will require careful consideration and further public consultation. All concerned stakeholders will be given further opportunity to comment.

In addition to this the Government also agreed to enhance the regulatory framework for complementary medicines and are currently implementing nineteen (19) recommendations for reform. The first five recommendations have been consulted on and are now in the implementation phase for commencement in January 2018. The next five will be consulted on in the second half of 2017 with implementation scheduled to commence in early 2018. Consultation and implementation on the remainder will take place throughout 2018.

Implementation of the reforms will:
•support consumer health decisions by increasing the information available about the safe and effective use of complementary medicines; and
•improve transparency for both industry and consumers and help improve rates of regulatory compliance by establishing a catalogue of approved ingredients and a list of permitted indications for use in complementary medicines.
•increase certainty of processes and increase flexibility for industry by making greater use of assessments for ingredients by comparable overseas regulators; and implementing new product approval pathways.

Thanks

[redacted]
Assistant Director, Engagement
Complementary and OTC Medicines Branch

Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Therapeutic Goods Administration
Department of Health
PO Box 100
Woden ACT 2606 Australia
www.tga.gov.au

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 3:49 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: VERY URGENT MIN CAMPAIGN RESPONSE: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Dear [redacted]

We have received an urgent request for "campaign words" from Minister Hunt's office.

As per the emails below, it appears multiple Ministers have been seeking advice from Minister Hunt in relation to the "Your Health, Your Choice" campaign (see website: https://www.yourhealthyourchoice.com.au/).
There is also an attached piece of correspondence which represents the type of enquiries the Ministers are receiving.

Among other things, the campaign appears to raise the following points:

- *Biased and flawed reviews that mislead the public*
- *Private health insurance rebates for complementary medicine abolished*
- *Deny the existence of good quality, scientific evidence showing the health and cost benefits of complementary medicine healthcare options*
- *Have homoeopathic and other products banned from sale in pharmacies*
- *Introduce drastic TGA regulatory policy change to remove complementary medicines from therapeutic goods legislation, compromising public safety*
- *Stop universities teaching complementary therapy courses*

I am aware that the TGA will not be able to address all the points raised in the campaign, however, if you agree perhaps we could address only those issues that are relevant to the TGA?
In the meantime I will inform MPEG that other areas of the department/government should also be consulted – **your advice on which areas specifically is greatly appreciated.**

Happy to come and have a chat if that would be helpful? I have attached a copy of a recent Min Corro that might contain some relevant words.

I apologise for the tight turn around on this but I will need to be able to provide something to Larry by 10am tomorrow morning (the document is due back to MPEG by 1pm).

Kind regards
[redacted]

TGA Parliamentary
Ministerial Correspondence / Ministerial Submissions
Ministerial Briefs/QTBs
[redacted]

Reporting and Collaborative Services Section
Regulatory Engagement & Planning Branch
Health Products Regulation Group
Mobile: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Therapeutic Goods Administration
Department of Health

PO Box 100
Woden ACT 2606 Australia
www.tga.gov.au

From: MPEG Benefits
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 1:36 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: PARLEC Standard Words - FW: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

[redacted] rang about this one. What do I do with it?

[redacted]
Parliamentary Officer

[redacted]
Ministerial, Parliamentary, Executive Support and Governance Branch
People, Capability and Communication Division
Australian Government Department of Health
[redacted]
Location: WS 12.230

PO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.

From: Health Referrals
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 11:29 AM
To: MPEG Benefits
Subject: FW: PARLEC Standard Words - FW: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Standard words – due: 20 July 2017 - GH – Med Reg
Campaign is about complementary medicines

From: Minister Hunt DLO
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 11:20 AM
To: MPEG; Health Referrals
Cc: Minister Hunt DLO
Subject: Standard Words - FW: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning,

Could we please have some standard words to address this campaign by Thursday afternoon.

We have been getting enquiries from a number of offices.

cheers

[redacted]
Departmental Liaison Officer

Office for the Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister For Health
Minister for Sport
Parliament House Suite M1-41 CANBERRA ACT 2600
[redacted]

I acknowledge the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. I pay my respects to them and to elders both past and present.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 11:07 AM
To: Minister Hunt DLO
Subject: FW: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi guys – do you have a standard reply for this campaign?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 10:54 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Your Health, Your Choice Campaign [SEC=No Protective Marking]

Good morning [redacted]

As discussed with [redacted] our office is needing a standard words document regarding the above campaign, as we have received emails regarding this issue.

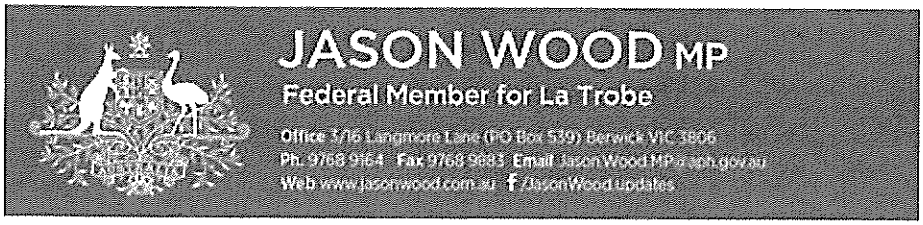
The link below is to the campaign web site and I have also attached an email from a constituent so you can have an idea of what their issue is.

If you need any further info, please don't hesitate to call me. Hope to hear from you soon.

https://www.yourhealthyourchoice.com.au/

Regards,

[redacted]
Electorate Officer
Office of Jason Wood MP | Federal Member for La Trobe
3/16 Langmore Lane, Berwick VIC 3806
[redacted]
[redacted] Web www.jasonwood.com.au



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CAMPAIGN 16-XX (MC17-012952)

CAMPAIGN STANDARD WORDS/CURRENT ISSUES WEB PAGE ADVISER COMMENTS

MINISTER Greg Hunt

ADVISER:

CAMPAIGN/CURRENT ISSUE: Your Health, Your Choice

THREE KEY POINTS TO COVER

1.

2.

3.

Topic: [Please note that this title appears on the front page of the Current Issues web page and will be used by the public to access further information. Please take this into consideration when setting the campaign name.]

Response:

Regulation of Homoeopathic Products

The role of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is to ensure that therapeutic goods available for supply in Australia are safe and fit for their intended purpose to protect the public health of consumers.

In Australia herbal products, vitamins, minerals and nutritional supplements, some aromatherapy products and certain homoeopathic products are regulated as complementary medicines under the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (the Act) by the TGA. Currently in Australia, most homoeopathic medicines are considered to be of very low risk and are not required to be on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods, providing they comply with certain requirements.

On 24 October 2014 the Australian Government announced that there would be an expert panel review of the regulation of medicines and medical devices (MMDR review). In September 2016, the Government agreed to most of the recommendations made by the Expert Panel. As part of this program of work, an initial public consultation has been conducted on the possible future regulation of a variety of low risk therapeutic goods, including homoeopathic products. The options explored for all identified product types ranged from maintaining the regulation as it already is, to removal from the TGA's regulatory framework altogether. Further public consultation will be conducted before any new regulatory arrangements are proposed by Government. We encourage you to keep abreast of the consultation process via the 'open consultations' link on the TGA website to ensure that your valuable input is included.

It may also interest you to know that as part of the MMDR recommendations the Government also agreed to enhance the regulatory framework for complementary medicines in a number of ways. These reforms will improve transparency for both industry and consumers and support consumer health decisions by increasing the amount of information that is available about the safe and effective use of complementary medicines.

NHMRC Homoeopathy Review

NHMRC uses standardised, internationally-accepted methods and quality assurance processes to ensure that the evidence it utilises in developing advice has been identified, appraised and interpreted in an appropriate and transparent manner. These standards were applied in conducting the Homoeopathy Review as well as the evaluation of a number of natural therapies as a part of the Department of Health's Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies. The approach to the review, the evidence base and the final report are all detailed on NHMRC's website at https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-topics/complementary-medicines.

The Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies

The Government has not made any decision to restrict private health insurers from offering benefits for complementary medicine.

The Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance (the Rebate) for Natural Therapies (the Review), was overseen by the Department's Chief Medical Officer, to determine if Natural Therapies should continue to attract the Rebate.

- The report of the Review was published on 16 November 2015. This report is on the Department's website.
- Evidence on 17 natural therapies was assessed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) which contributed to the Review.

Natural therapies continue to be covered by the Rebate. Where natural therapies are covered by a private health insurance policy, the policy will continue to attract the Rebate. The proportion of the rebate linked to natural therapy benefits within general treatment products is relatively very small. At this point, decisions on the coverage of natural therapies in private health insurance policies continues to be a commercial matter for each insurer.

The Government has established the Private Health Insurance Advisory Committee to provide advice on possible reforms to improve the value of private health insurance for consumers. The Committee is considering a range of issues, including product design for both hospital and general treatment insurance.

None of the natural therapies considered by the Review of the Australian Government Rebate on Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies are listed on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). Therefore, these therapies do not attract Medicare rebates.

(MO USE ONLY)

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

_____

Greg Hunt

_____ / _____ / _____

***Please note: this information will be published on the Department of Health's Current Issues web page unless otherwise advised by your office*

COMMENTS:

Minister	**Greg Hunt**
PDR Number	**MC17-012952**
Topic	**MASTER CAMPAIGN 17-12: Your Health, Your Choice**
Action Officer	[redacted]
	[redacted]
Clearance Officer	[redacted]
	[redacted]
Division/Branch	Medicines Regulation

Adviser/DLO Comments:

Return for Redraft ☐

To comply with web accessibility the following information is a requirement for all web pages. Assistant Secretary responsible for content.

AS Responsible	[redacted]
AS position number	[redacted]