



Media Statement: 11 February 2019

Response to 60 Minutes report on Complementary Medicines

On Sunday 10 February 2019, Channel 9 aired a 60 Minutes program called 'Trick or Treatment', examining extreme reactions to products not listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

Responding to the program, the **Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS)**, a leading Association representing natural medicine practitioners, stated that Australian consumers seeking complementary medicines as an alternative health choice should always consult an accredited practitioner. On the recommendation of an accredited practitioner, trusted products should be purchased within Australia and used only as directed.

Australia has the strictest regulatory system for complementary medicines in the world, including quality assurance and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) programs, a permissible ingredients determination, a permissible indications determination, and a rigorous system for reporting of adverse reactions.

Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS, urges consumers to always seek advice from an accredited practitioner before self-administering any complementary medicine.

"ATMS members adhere to strict quality and ingredient laws; overseas products are not subject to the same high level of scrutiny as those manufactured in Australia," said Mr Wurf.

Australia has a risk-based approach with a three-tiered system for the regulation of all medicines, including complementary medicines. Some medicines are exempt; Lower risk medicines (AUSTL) are listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG); Higher risk medicines (AUSTR) must be registered on the ARTG.

The majority of complementary medicines are AUSTL listed medicines due to their low risk. Australian consumers should:

- Use AUSTL/AUSTR products only as directed and consult a health professional if symptoms persist.
- Always follow label instructions and warning statements.
- For further information refer to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for an updated Permissible Ingredients Determination quarterly.

To find an accredited natural medicine practitioner, visit: www.atms.com.au.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Interviews with:

- Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS, are available on request

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Image:

1. Charles Wurf, CEO, ATMS





About Natural Medicine Week

Natural Medicine Week, 20 – 26 May 2019, aims to promote, educate and raise awareness of the important role natural medicine practitioners play in the health and wellbeing of Australians. Proudly supported by the Australian Traditional-Medicine Society, Natural Medicine Week celebrates the three primary models of natural medicine: Ingestive Therapies, Bodywork and Massage, and Chinese Medicine.

www.naturalmedicineweek.com.au

About the Australian Traditional-Medicine Society:

The Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS) is the leader of the natural medicine industry, promoting and representing professional practitioners of natural medicine, who are encouraged to pursue the highest ideals of professionalism in their natural medicine practice and education. As Australia's largest national professional association for natural medicine practitioners, ATMS is a multi-disciplinary association representing over 10,000 accredited practitioners throughout Australia.

ATMS was founded in 1984 and is an incorporated not-for-profit company. In 2014 ATMS celebrated their 30th anniversary representing natural medicine practitioners in Australia. ATMS is governed by a Board of Directors, with specialised departments for Massage Therapy, Chinese Medicine, Homeopathy, Nutrition, Naturopathy and Western Herbal Medicine.

www.atms.com.au