

**The Skeptic Zone**  
**Show 286 - 13 April 2014**

**Intentionally  
Left Blank**

**Homeopathy**

1  
00:00:22,950 --> 00:00:09,190  
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2  
00:00:28,830 --> 00:00:25,029  
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

3  
00:00:31,349 --> 00:00:28,840  
episode number 286 for the 13th of april

4  
00:00:33,670 --> 00:00:31,359  
2014. richard saunders here with you

5  
00:00:36,229 --> 00:00:33,680  
from sydney australia

6  
00:00:38,630 --> 00:00:36,239  
and yes it's a world homeopathy

7  
00:00:41,110 --> 00:00:38,640  
awareness week are you aware

8  
00:00:42,709 --> 00:00:41,120  
my friends are you aware of homeopathy

9  
00:00:44,709 --> 00:00:42,719  
well if you listen to this show i guess

10  
00:00:45,910 --> 00:00:44,719  
you probably are

11  
00:00:48,709 --> 00:00:45,920  
we're going to start with the press

12  
00:00:51,350 --> 00:00:48,719  
release from australian skeptics

13  
00:00:52,310 --> 00:00:51,360

including quotes from well me

14

00:00:55,110 --> 00:00:52,320  
about

15

00:00:58,150 --> 00:00:55,120  
the recent national health and medical

16

00:00:59,830 --> 00:00:58,160  
research council draft information paper

17

00:01:02,630 --> 00:00:59,840  
on the effectiveness of homeopathy in

18

00:01:05,270 --> 00:01:02,640  
fact a lot of the show concerns uh this

19

00:01:07,109 --> 00:01:05,280  
draft paper needless to say the draft

20

00:01:08,950 --> 00:01:07,119  
paper came down heavily against

21

00:01:10,630 --> 00:01:08,960  
homeopathy

22

00:01:12,550 --> 00:01:10,640  
no good evidence to suggest it actually

23

00:01:15,270 --> 00:01:12,560  
works but we go into that

24

00:01:17,590 --> 00:01:15,280  
after that press release we have a guest

25

00:01:19,910 --> 00:01:17,600  
read as it were lauren cochran the

26  
00:01:21,910 --> 00:01:19,920  
president of canberra skeptics is going

27  
00:01:25,429 --> 00:01:21,920  
to read the information from a new

28  
00:01:26,950 --> 00:01:25,439  
website homeopathy awareness week

29  
00:01:29,350 --> 00:01:26,960  
very good information there this is from

30  
00:01:31,429 --> 00:01:29,360  
the uk i think you'll enjoy it after

31  
00:01:33,350 --> 00:01:31,439  
that we have a clip from the project the

32  
00:01:35,590 --> 00:01:33,360  
project is a wonderful tv show here in

33  
00:01:37,990 --> 00:01:35,600  
australia on the ten network it's on

34  
00:01:39,590 --> 00:01:38,000  
every week night i i can recommend it dr

35  
00:01:42,149 --> 00:01:39,600  
reishi appears on the project from time

36  
00:01:44,950 --> 00:01:42,159  
to time and this is a short debate

37  
00:01:47,429 --> 00:01:44,960  
between professor john dwyer

38  
00:01:49,670 --> 00:01:47,439

and australian homeopathic association's

39

00:01:51,670 --> 00:01:49,680

anna lamarro

40

00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:51,680

i think you'll find it um

41

00:01:55,030 --> 00:01:53,040

educational

42

00:01:57,910 --> 00:01:55,040

after that it's an opinion piece written

43

00:01:59,990 --> 00:01:57,920

by dr ken harvey we can't have it both

44

00:02:02,950 --> 00:02:00,000

ways on homeopathy

45

00:02:06,469 --> 00:02:02,960

and after that another guest read by joe

46

00:02:09,669 --> 00:02:06,479

alabasta with news on the better health

47

00:02:12,229 --> 00:02:09,679

channels website that was promoting

48

00:02:15,270 --> 00:02:12,239

homeopathy i mentioned it last week

49

00:02:16,229 --> 00:02:15,280

and finally to wrap up our homeopathy

50

00:02:19,110 --> 00:02:16,239

section

51  
00:02:21,110 --> 00:02:19,120  
i read the press release from homeopathy

52  
00:02:23,270 --> 00:02:21,120  
plus well why not listen to what the

53  
00:02:24,470 --> 00:02:23,280  
other side have to say about this whole

54  
00:02:25,910 --> 00:02:24,480  
affair

55  
00:02:27,030 --> 00:02:25,920  
following that it's a week in science

56  
00:02:29,110 --> 00:02:27,040  
from our good friends at the royal

57  
00:02:33,509 --> 00:02:29,120  
institution of australia where you can

58  
00:02:36,470 --> 00:02:34,790  
a u

59  
00:02:38,790 --> 00:02:36,480  
i really enjoy a week in science and

60  
00:02:40,229 --> 00:02:38,800  
judging by your correspondence

61  
00:02:42,550 --> 00:02:40,239  
so do you

62  
00:02:45,190 --> 00:02:42,560  
and to round off the show dr rachie

63  
00:02:47,270 --> 00:02:45,200

reports dr rachel dunlop with a look

64

00:02:49,670 --> 00:02:47,280

into a recent uh

65

00:02:51,589 --> 00:02:49,680

study into acupuncture in the emergency

66

00:02:53,110 --> 00:02:51,599

room in hospitals

67

00:02:54,869 --> 00:02:53,120

sort of a study

68

00:02:56,390 --> 00:02:54,879

well you'll find out more

69

00:02:59,350 --> 00:02:56,400

at the end of the show

70

00:03:01,430 --> 00:02:59,360

oh i wish i wish folks i wish i was in

71

00:03:03,270 --> 00:03:01,440

manchester at the moment as i record

72

00:03:05,589 --> 00:03:03,280

this as i record this

73

00:03:09,030 --> 00:03:05,599

lots of weary skeptics are waking up for

74

00:03:10,710 --> 00:03:09,040

day two of qed question explore discover

75

00:03:12,390 --> 00:03:10,720

the wonderful conference wonderful

76  
00:03:14,149 --> 00:03:12,400  
skeptical conference there in manchester

77  
00:03:16,830 --> 00:03:14,159  
i know lots of my friends are there

78  
00:03:20,149 --> 00:03:16,840  
including uh susan gerbic from guerrilla

79  
00:03:21,830 --> 00:03:20,159  
skepticism and iran sir give

80  
00:03:23,270 --> 00:03:21,840  
part-time reporter for the skeptic zone

81  
00:03:25,030 --> 00:03:23,280  
he's there running about with his

82  
00:03:26,869 --> 00:03:25,040  
microphone pretending to be maynard i

83  
00:03:28,949 --> 00:03:26,879  
guess and he's going to be sending lots

84  
00:03:31,350 --> 00:03:28,959  
of good interviews from people attending

85  
00:03:33,030 --> 00:03:31,360  
qed looking forward to that now before

86  
00:03:35,589 --> 00:03:33,040  
we get stuck into the show a couple of

87  
00:03:36,710 --> 00:03:35,599  
announcements those people living in

88  
00:03:39,030 --> 00:03:36,720

brisbane

89

00:03:41,990 --> 00:03:39,040

or in queensland or let's face it

90

00:03:44,070 --> 00:03:42,000

anywhere in australia brisbane skeptic

91

00:03:47,030 --> 00:03:44,080

camp brisbane skeptic camp will be held

92

00:03:47,910 --> 00:03:47,040

on the 19th of july at hamilton town

93

00:03:50,229 --> 00:03:47,920

hall

94

00:03:52,869 --> 00:03:50,239

skeptic camp is always a good time no

95

00:03:56,429 --> 00:03:52,879

matter where it is and you can find more

96

00:03:58,789 --> 00:03:56,439

about brisbane skeptic camp at bris

97

00:04:02,710 --> 00:03:58,799

skepticamp.org or just google

98

00:04:04,309 --> 00:04:02,720

brisbane skippy camp 19th of july

99

00:04:06,869 --> 00:04:04,319

and another group of people doing some

100

00:04:09,030 --> 00:04:06,879

good work and uh know how to have fun

101  
00:04:11,190 --> 00:04:09,040  
the canberra skeptics oh yes camera

102  
00:04:14,390 --> 00:04:11,200  
skeptics if you live in the canberra the

103  
00:04:16,430 --> 00:04:14,400  
australian capital territory area google

104  
00:04:19,110 --> 00:04:16,440  
canberra skeptics or visit

105  
00:04:21,670 --> 00:04:19,120  
canberraskeptics.org dot a u

106  
00:04:24,150 --> 00:04:21,680  
they have frequent uh free public talks

107  
00:04:25,749 --> 00:04:24,160  
and other social events

108  
00:04:29,629 --> 00:04:25,759  
and not forgetting our friends in

109  
00:04:31,909 --> 00:04:29,639  
victoria the victorian skeptics vic

110  
00:04:34,790 --> 00:04:31,919  
skeptics.wordpress.com also lots of

111  
00:04:36,790 --> 00:04:34,800  
information there public events

112  
00:04:38,230 --> 00:04:36,800  
visit their website if you live in the

113  
00:04:39,590 --> 00:04:38,240

melbourne area

114

00:04:41,510 --> 00:04:39,600

but that's enough for me it's time for

115

00:04:43,430 --> 00:04:41,520

me to run downstairs

116

00:04:45,430 --> 00:04:43,440

make sure that there's still plenty of

117

00:04:47,189 --> 00:04:45,440

nice cat food for fred who was

118

00:04:48,629 --> 00:04:47,199

complaining the other day because i fed

119

00:04:51,430 --> 00:04:48,639

him chicken mints

120

00:04:52,629 --> 00:04:51,440

oh big mistake oh man

121

00:04:55,590 --> 00:04:52,639

he let me know

122

00:04:57,270 --> 00:04:55,600

beef mince yes yes he told me i can read

123

00:04:58,870 --> 00:04:57,280

cat you see he looked at his bowl and

124

00:05:00,629 --> 00:04:58,880

said

125

00:05:02,629 --> 00:05:00,639

make sure i've got some beef mince for

126  
00:05:24,150 --> 00:05:02,639  
fred the cat while you enjoy the

127  
00:05:30,070 --> 00:05:25,909  
australian skeptics media released

128  
00:05:35,590 --> 00:05:32,469  
april the 9th 2014.

129  
00:05:37,270 --> 00:05:35,600  
it's official homeopathy doesn't work

130  
00:05:39,029 --> 00:05:37,280  
the national health and medical research

131  
00:05:41,510 --> 00:05:39,039  
council draft information on the

132  
00:05:44,150 --> 00:05:41,520  
effectiveness of homeopathy finds that

133  
00:05:46,070 --> 00:05:44,160  
quote there is no reliable evidence that

134  
00:05:48,310 --> 00:05:46,080  
homeopathy is effective for treating

135  
00:05:49,830 --> 00:05:48,320  
health conditions end quote

136  
00:05:51,590 --> 00:05:49,840  
this is the view that australian

137  
00:05:52,550 --> 00:05:51,600  
skeptics have been propounding for some

138  
00:05:55,430 --> 00:05:52,560

time

139

00:05:58,310 --> 00:05:55,440

and thus thoroughly endorses

140

00:06:00,629 --> 00:05:58,320

quote it is especially timely during

141

00:06:03,189 --> 00:06:00,639

homeopathy awareness week due to start

142

00:06:05,670 --> 00:06:03,199

on the 10th of april though the findings

143

00:06:07,990 --> 00:06:05,680

might not reflect the type of awareness

144

00:06:09,990 --> 00:06:08,000

that the homeopathy industry would want

145

00:06:11,830 --> 00:06:10,000

end quote said skeptics president

146

00:06:15,590 --> 00:06:11,840

richard saunders

147

00:06:19,029 --> 00:06:15,600

the nhmrc draft report released on april

148

00:06:21,990 --> 00:06:19,039

9 repeatedly says that studies claim to

149

00:06:23,670 --> 00:06:22,000

support the efficacy of homeopathy are

150

00:06:26,550 --> 00:06:23,680

unreliable

151  
00:06:27,749 --> 00:06:26,560  
not good quality in terms of design and

152  
00:06:31,029 --> 00:06:27,759  
practice

153  
00:06:32,950 --> 00:06:31,039  
or too few participants or both

154  
00:06:35,029 --> 00:06:32,960  
quote based on all the evidence

155  
00:06:36,710 --> 00:06:35,039  
considered there were no health

156  
00:06:39,189 --> 00:06:36,720  
conditions for which there was a

157  
00:06:41,590 --> 00:06:39,199  
reliable evidence that homeopathy was

158  
00:06:44,230 --> 00:06:41,600  
effective and quote the report says

159  
00:06:46,469 --> 00:06:44,240  
quote no good quality well-designed

160  
00:06:48,469 --> 00:06:46,479  
studies with enough participants for a

161  
00:06:50,469 --> 00:06:48,479  
meaningful result reported either that

162  
00:06:53,670 --> 00:06:50,479  
homeopathy caused greater health

163  
00:06:55,909 --> 00:06:53,680

improvements than a placebo or caused

164

00:06:58,550 --> 00:06:55,919

health improvements equal to those of

165

00:07:00,790 --> 00:06:58,560

other treatments end quote the draft

166

00:07:01,830 --> 00:07:00,800

report concludes that

167

00:07:04,550 --> 00:07:01,840

point

168

00:07:07,029 --> 00:07:04,560

people who chose homeopathy instead of

169

00:07:08,950 --> 00:07:07,039

proven conventional treatments may put

170

00:07:11,029 --> 00:07:08,960

their health at risk if safe and

171

00:07:13,270 --> 00:07:11,039

effective evidence-based treatments are

172

00:07:15,270 --> 00:07:13,280

rejected or delayed in favor of

173

00:07:18,150 --> 00:07:15,280

homeopathic treatment

174

00:07:20,469 --> 00:07:18,160

point homeopathy should not be used to

175

00:07:23,990 --> 00:07:20,479

treat health conditions that are serious

176  
00:07:25,430 --> 00:07:24,000  
or could become serious point people who

177  
00:07:28,230 --> 00:07:25,440  
are considering whether to use

178  
00:07:30,390 --> 00:07:28,240  
homeopathy should first get advice from

179  
00:07:33,270 --> 00:07:30,400  
a health professional

180  
00:07:34,710 --> 00:07:33,280  
gp specialist nurse practitioner or

181  
00:07:37,270 --> 00:07:34,720  
pharmacist

182  
00:07:39,189 --> 00:07:37,280  
those who use homeopathy should tell

183  
00:07:41,589 --> 00:07:39,199  
their health professionals and should

184  
00:07:42,830 --> 00:07:41,599  
keep taking any conventional medicines

185  
00:07:45,830 --> 00:07:42,840  
that they have been

186  
00:07:48,070 --> 00:07:45,840  
prescribed professor rob morrison

187  
00:07:49,830 --> 00:07:48,080  
professorial fellow in the school of

188  
00:07:51,749 --> 00:07:49,840

education at flinders university in

189

00:07:53,990 --> 00:07:51,759

south australia and vice president of

190

00:07:55,189 --> 00:07:54,000

friends of science and medicine

191

00:07:57,670 --> 00:07:55,199

said that

192

00:08:00,150 --> 00:07:57,680

quote the draft paper is welcome if

193

00:08:02,390 --> 00:08:00,160

belated as other advanced countries

194

00:08:05,270 --> 00:08:02,400

concerned about the useless treatments

195

00:08:07,430 --> 00:08:05,280

that waste taxpayers money have long ago

196

00:08:09,909 --> 00:08:07,440

reached the same convincing conclusion

197

00:08:12,070 --> 00:08:09,919

that homeopathy is among them

198

00:08:14,390 --> 00:08:12,080

politicians agonize about the burgeoning

199

00:08:16,309 --> 00:08:14,400

costs of health care in australia

200

00:08:18,309 --> 00:08:16,319

and subscriptions to health funds are

201  
00:08:20,469 --> 00:08:18,319  
climbing out of the reach for many you

202  
00:08:22,790 --> 00:08:20,479  
have to wonder why well research reports

203  
00:08:24,629 --> 00:08:22,800  
of this kind which clearly distinguish

204  
00:08:27,110 --> 00:08:24,639  
between health treatments which work and

205  
00:08:29,350 --> 00:08:27,120  
those that don't and which could save

206  
00:08:32,070 --> 00:08:29,360  
millions of dollars spent on useless

207  
00:08:34,630 --> 00:08:32,080  
treatments are so few and far between

208  
00:08:37,430 --> 00:08:34,640  
the report might also have included a

209  
00:08:39,909 --> 00:08:37,440  
section to show that if homeopathy

210  
00:08:41,990 --> 00:08:39,919  
actually did work the well-established

211  
00:08:44,389 --> 00:08:42,000  
scientific validity principles of

212  
00:08:48,310 --> 00:08:44,399  
chemistry physics physiology and

213  
00:08:51,030 --> 00:08:48,320

pharmacology must all be wrong end quote

214

00:08:52,870 --> 00:08:51,040

saunders added that quote for many years

215

00:08:55,829 --> 00:08:52,880

we have pointed out the problems with

216

00:08:57,430 --> 00:08:55,839

the evidence for homeopathy

217

00:08:59,829 --> 00:08:57,440

and despite the best efforts of

218

00:09:02,790 --> 00:08:59,839

homeopathy boosters

219

00:09:04,710 --> 00:09:02,800

the practice remains one area where we

220

00:09:08,550 --> 00:09:04,720

can say with confidence

221

00:09:10,150 --> 00:09:08,560

that good evidence just does not exist

222

00:09:12,949 --> 00:09:10,160

end quote

223

00:09:15,910 --> 00:09:12,959

in 2012 the skeptics issued its annual

224

00:09:18,150 --> 00:09:15,920

bent spoon award to the homeopathy plus

225

00:09:20,150 --> 00:09:18,160

organization and its founder fran

226  
00:09:22,710 --> 00:09:20,160  
sheffield for

227  
00:09:25,910 --> 00:09:22,720  
continued promotion of some of the most

228  
00:09:27,190 --> 00:09:25,920  
ludicrous claims of an already ludicrous

229  
00:09:29,269 --> 00:09:27,200  
product

230  
00:09:30,389 --> 00:09:29,279  
australia's consumer watchdog the a

231  
00:09:32,550 --> 00:09:30,399  
triple c

232  
00:09:35,350 --> 00:09:32,560  
described some of those claims regarding

233  
00:09:36,550 --> 00:09:35,360  
homeopathic treatment of whooping cough

234  
00:09:39,269 --> 00:09:36,560  
as

235  
00:09:43,110 --> 00:09:39,279  
misleading and deceptive

236  
00:09:44,870 --> 00:09:43,120  
the nhmrc says it is quote concerned

237  
00:09:47,509 --> 00:09:44,880  
that unconventional products and

238  
00:09:48,790 --> 00:09:47,519

procedures are often promoted to improve

239

00:09:51,110 --> 00:09:48,800

people's health

240

00:09:52,550 --> 00:09:51,120

where there is little or no evidence of

241

00:09:54,389 --> 00:09:52,560

their benefit

242

00:09:56,470 --> 00:09:54,399

except for the benefits people

243

00:09:58,790 --> 00:09:56,480

experience when they believe that the

244

00:09:59,910 --> 00:09:58,800

treatment is effective the placebo

245

00:10:02,150 --> 00:09:59,920

effect

246

00:10:04,310 --> 00:10:02,160

sometimes patients may be misled into

247

00:10:07,110 --> 00:10:04,320

rejecting practices and treatments that

248

00:10:09,269 --> 00:10:07,120

are proven to be effective end quote

249

00:10:12,070 --> 00:10:09,279

some of the conditions that proponents

250

00:10:15,590 --> 00:10:12,080

of homeopathy claim can be treated

251  
00:10:19,110 --> 00:10:15,600  
include hiv infection adhd asthma

252  
00:10:20,630 --> 00:10:19,120  
depression acute trauma malaria or even

253  
00:10:22,389 --> 00:10:20,640  
heroin addiction

254  
00:10:25,750 --> 00:10:22,399  
for none of these conditions as well as

255  
00:10:27,829 --> 00:10:25,760  
many others did the nhmrc find any

256  
00:10:30,470 --> 00:10:27,839  
reliable supporting evidence that

257  
00:10:33,829 --> 00:10:30,480  
homeopathic treatment was any better

258  
00:10:36,790 --> 00:10:33,839  
than placebo or that the evidence wasn't

259  
00:10:39,630 --> 00:10:36,800  
even good enough to make that claim

260  
00:10:42,949 --> 00:10:39,640  
saunders said that quote overall the

261  
00:10:45,269 --> 00:10:42,959  
nhmrc draft report supports the view

262  
00:10:47,430 --> 00:10:45,279  
held by australian skeptics and by

263  
00:10:48,790 --> 00:10:47,440

skeptics groups around the world for

264

00:10:49,509 --> 00:10:48,800

many years

265

00:10:53,030 --> 00:10:49,519

it

266

00:10:55,350 --> 00:10:53,040

just doesn't work end quote

267

00:10:57,269 --> 00:10:55,360

quote we therefore affirm and support

268

00:10:59,670 --> 00:10:57,279

the findings and we encourage the

269

00:11:01,750 --> 00:10:59,680

various related government bodies to act

270

00:11:04,069 --> 00:11:01,760

on the findings accordingly

271

00:11:06,069 --> 00:11:04,079

our aim is to see the public protected

272

00:11:08,230 --> 00:11:06,079

from misleading claims

273

00:11:10,150 --> 00:11:08,240

hopefully this draft report is one

274

00:11:11,430 --> 00:11:10,160

positive step in that direction end

275

00:11:13,269 --> 00:11:11,440

quote

276

00:11:15,430 --> 00:11:13,279

the nhmrc

277

00:11:16,949 --> 00:11:15,440

is also looking into the funding of

278

00:11:19,030 --> 00:11:16,959

complementary medicine through the

279

00:11:21,590 --> 00:11:19,040

government's support of health funds and

280

00:11:23,110 --> 00:11:21,600

this report on homeopathy should feed

281

00:11:25,350 --> 00:11:23,120

into that

282

00:11:27,030 --> 00:11:25,360

professor john dwyer emeritus professor

283

00:11:28,949 --> 00:11:27,040

of medicine at the university of new

284

00:11:30,550 --> 00:11:28,959

south wales and president of friends of

285

00:11:33,269 --> 00:11:30,560

science and medicine

286

00:11:34,870 --> 00:11:33,279

said that quote homeopathic preparations

287

00:11:37,350 --> 00:11:34,880

should not be available in our

288

00:11:39,990 --> 00:11:37,360

pharmacies no private health insurer

289

00:11:42,389 --> 00:11:40,000

should provide any rebate for homeopathy

290

00:11:44,470 --> 00:11:42,399

and those few universities that lower

291

00:11:46,310 --> 00:11:44,480

our scientific standards by providing

292

00:11:48,949 --> 00:11:46,320

credibility for homeopathy in their

293

00:11:50,230 --> 00:11:48,959

health courses should cease doing so

294

00:11:52,230 --> 00:11:50,240

immediately

295

00:11:55,190 --> 00:11:52,240

australians can save more than 8 million

296

00:11:57,829 --> 00:11:55,200

precious health care dollars a year by

297

00:11:59,910 --> 00:11:57,839

accepting the advice in this report we

298

00:12:02,550 --> 00:11:59,920

await now for the chief medical officers

299

00:12:05,190 --> 00:12:02,560

report to government on a range of other

300

00:12:08,629 --> 00:12:05,200

unscientific modalities that are likely

301  
00:12:10,389 --> 00:12:08,639  
to be assessed as being equally useless

302  
00:12:12,629 --> 00:12:10,399  
it is more important than ever that

303  
00:12:15,030 --> 00:12:12,639  
credible scientific evidence of clinical

304  
00:12:16,389 --> 00:12:15,040  
effectiveness underpins our delivery of

305  
00:12:27,670 --> 00:12:16,399  
healthcare

306  
00:12:31,269 --> 00:12:29,430  
this is lauren cochran president of

307  
00:12:34,389 --> 00:12:31,279  
canberra skeptics

308  
00:12:36,470 --> 00:12:34,399  
from [homeopathyawarenessweek.org](http://homeopathyawarenessweek.org)

309  
00:12:38,949 --> 00:12:36,480  
homeopathy awareness week takes place

310  
00:12:40,389 --> 00:12:38,959  
internationally from april 10 to 16 and

311  
00:12:42,230 --> 00:12:40,399  
is aimed at raising awareness of

312  
00:12:44,150 --> 00:12:42,240  
homeopathic remedies

313  
00:12:45,750 --> 00:12:44,160

each year homeopaths from around the

314

00:12:48,310 --> 00:12:45,760

world use this week to promote their

315

00:12:50,310 --> 00:12:48,320

practice and gain publicity yet public

316

00:12:53,590 --> 00:12:50,320

awareness of the realities of homeopathy

317

00:12:55,670 --> 00:12:53,600

remain low for example many people

318

00:12:57,590 --> 00:12:55,680

mistakenly believe homeopathic products

319

00:12:59,350 --> 00:12:57,600

are a form of herbal products not

320

00:13:01,430 --> 00:12:59,360

realising that homeopathic products

321

00:13:02,550 --> 00:13:01,440

typically contain no active ingredients

322

00:13:04,310 --> 00:13:02,560

at all

323

00:13:06,389 --> 00:13:04,320

over two centuries ago the first

324

00:13:08,470 --> 00:13:06,399

homeopath perversely decided the

325

00:13:10,470 --> 00:13:08,480

diluting and active medicinal ingredient

326

00:13:12,310 --> 00:13:10,480

makes it more potent with the vast

327

00:13:13,269 --> 00:13:12,320

majority of remedies containing nothing

328

00:13:15,430 --> 00:13:13,279

at all

329

00:13:17,910 --> 00:13:15,440

modern homeopathic tablets are generally

330

00:13:20,710 --> 00:13:17,920

100 sugar containing no active

331

00:13:22,870 --> 00:13:20,720

ingredient whatsoever as part of world

332

00:13:24,710 --> 00:13:22,880

homeopathy awareness week we would like

333

00:13:26,470 --> 00:13:24,720

to raise awareness of 12 key points

334

00:13:27,430 --> 00:13:26,480

about homeopathy

335

00:13:30,310 --> 00:13:27,440

one

336

00:13:31,990 --> 00:13:30,320

in 2010 the uk government science and

337

00:13:34,470 --> 00:13:32,000

technology committee analyzed the

338

00:13:37,110 --> 00:13:34,480

research into homeopathy and concluded

339

00:13:39,750 --> 00:13:37,120

that homeopathic products perform no

340

00:13:41,670 --> 00:13:39,760

better than placebos this conclusion was

341

00:13:43,509 --> 00:13:41,680

backed up this week in a review by the

342

00:13:45,110 --> 00:13:43,519

australian national health and medical

343

00:13:47,030 --> 00:13:45,120

research council

344

00:13:49,190 --> 00:13:47,040

with many homeopaths claiming their

345

00:13:52,230 --> 00:13:49,200

pills can treat serious illnesses

346

00:13:54,790 --> 00:13:52,240

homeopathy is a dangerous placebo

347

00:13:56,790 --> 00:13:54,800

2. when penelope dingle chose to take

348

00:13:58,790 --> 00:13:56,800

the advice of her homeopath husband and

349

00:14:01,350 --> 00:13:58,800

treat her rectal cancer with homeopathic

350

00:14:03,590 --> 00:14:01,360

remedies the results were tragic

351  
00:14:05,269 --> 00:14:03,600  
her death was according to the coroner

352  
00:14:07,990 --> 00:14:05,279  
the result of being influenced by

353  
00:14:10,069 --> 00:14:08,000  
misinformation and bad science there are

354  
00:14:12,550 --> 00:14:10,079  
real dangers in using homeopathy in

355  
00:14:13,509 --> 00:14:12,560  
place of real medicine

356  
00:14:15,990 --> 00:14:13,519  
three

357  
00:14:17,670 --> 00:14:16,000  
homeopathy is big business the

358  
00:14:19,590 --> 00:14:17,680  
homeopathic industry is highly

359  
00:14:21,670 --> 00:14:19,600  
profitable for companies like boiron

360  
00:14:23,990 --> 00:14:21,680  
waleeda and nelson's

361  
00:14:27,350 --> 00:14:24,000  
the uk homeopathic market is estimated

362  
00:14:31,030 --> 00:14:27,360  
at 213 million pounds per year

363  
00:14:32,550 --> 00:14:31,040

comparable to the us france and germany

364

00:14:34,310 --> 00:14:32,560

all of this for treatments which have

365

00:14:36,790 --> 00:14:34,320

not yet been proven to be any more

366

00:14:40,629 --> 00:14:36,800

effective than placebo

367

00:14:42,870 --> 00:14:40,639

4. in 2010 the nhs spent around 4

368

00:14:44,550 --> 00:14:42,880

million pounds on homeopathy

369

00:14:46,710 --> 00:14:44,560

this money could instead be spent

370

00:14:49,110 --> 00:14:46,720

providing effective treatments vital

371

00:14:51,030 --> 00:14:49,120

surgery and additional nursing staff

372

00:14:52,949 --> 00:14:51,040

with nhs budgets under increasing

373

00:14:55,189 --> 00:14:52,959

pressure wasting money by giving sugar

374

00:14:57,110 --> 00:14:55,199

pills to the sick is unjustifiable

375

00:14:58,949 --> 00:14:57,120

according to the 2010 uk government

376  
00:15:00,389 --> 00:14:58,959  
science and technology committee the

377  
00:15:03,269 --> 00:15:00,399  
government should stop allowing the

378  
00:15:06,629 --> 00:15:03,279  
funding of homeopathy on the nhs

379  
00:15:08,230 --> 00:15:06,639  
5. in 2012 boron settled a class action

380  
00:15:10,629 --> 00:15:08,240  
lawsuit over their popular

381  
00:15:13,350 --> 00:15:10,639  
oscilloscoping homeopathic remedy for

382  
00:15:14,949 --> 00:15:13,360  
cold and flu boron claim that the remedy

383  
00:15:16,150 --> 00:15:14,959  
is made from the heart and liver of a

384  
00:15:17,990 --> 00:15:16,160  
single duck

385  
00:15:19,590 --> 00:15:18,000  
given that the ultra dilute remedy

386  
00:15:21,750 --> 00:15:19,600  
contains nothing at all of the original

387  
00:15:23,910 --> 00:15:21,760  
duck and generates over 20 million

388  
00:15:27,350 --> 00:15:23,920

dollars worth of revenue it has to be

389

00:15:28,629 --> 00:15:27,360

the ultimate quack remedy

390

00:15:30,629 --> 00:15:28,639

6.

391

00:15:32,550 --> 00:15:30,639

even now groups such as homeopaths

392

00:15:34,389 --> 00:15:32,560

without borders are currently offering

393

00:15:36,230 --> 00:15:34,399

ineffective homeopathic treatments in

394

00:15:38,310 --> 00:15:36,240

the developing world

395

00:15:40,310 --> 00:15:38,320

other homeopathy charities are known to

396

00:15:42,790 --> 00:15:40,320

dispense sugar pills to treat aids and

397

00:15:44,470 --> 00:15:42,800

the ebola virus some of these groups are

398

00:15:47,990 --> 00:15:44,480

even promoted to the website of the

399

00:15:49,030 --> 00:15:48,000

world homeopathy awareness organization

400

00:15:52,790 --> 00:15:49,040

7.

401  
00:15:54,470 --> 00:15:52,800  
in 2011 1 700 people in 30 countries

402  
00:15:56,389 --> 00:15:54,480  
around the world took part in an

403  
00:15:58,470 --> 00:15:56,399  
international protest each taking an

404  
00:16:00,069 --> 00:15:58,480  
overdose of dozens of homeopathic pills

405  
00:16:02,150 --> 00:16:00,079  
to demonstrate that these worthless

406  
00:16:04,710 --> 00:16:02,160  
pills have no effect and should not be

407  
00:16:06,069 --> 00:16:04,720  
sold as medicine

408  
00:16:07,990 --> 00:16:06,079  
8.

409  
00:16:09,910 --> 00:16:08,000  
if only homeopathy is used even

410  
00:16:11,910 --> 00:16:09,920  
relatively commonplace ailments can lead

411  
00:16:13,829 --> 00:16:11,920  
to severe consequences

412  
00:16:15,590 --> 00:16:13,839  
gloria thomas was nine months old when

413  
00:16:17,829 --> 00:16:15,600

her parents chose to treat her eczema

414

00:16:19,590 --> 00:16:17,839

exclusively with homeopathy when she was

415

00:16:22,069 --> 00:16:19,600

finally admitted to hospital she had

416

00:16:24,310 --> 00:16:22,079

developed sepsis and died shortly after

417

00:16:26,310 --> 00:16:24,320

admission her parents confidence and

418

00:16:28,389 --> 00:16:26,320

faith in homeopathy ultimately led to

419

00:16:31,030 --> 00:16:28,399

this tragedy and they were subsequently

420

00:16:32,310 --> 00:16:31,040

jailed for manslaughter

421

00:16:35,030 --> 00:16:32,320

9.

422

00:16:37,030 --> 00:16:35,040

in 2006 a news night investigation

423

00:16:39,350 --> 00:16:37,040

revealed that homeopath told undercover

424

00:16:41,670 --> 00:16:39,360

reporters that homeopathic preparations

425

00:16:43,350 --> 00:16:41,680

could be used to prevent malaria this

426

00:16:44,550 --> 00:16:43,360

advice was roundly condemned as

427

00:16:46,150 --> 00:16:44,560

dangerous and potentially

428

00:16:48,470 --> 00:16:46,160

life-threatening

429

00:16:51,189 --> 00:16:48,480

nevertheless homeopaths still claim to

430

00:16:52,870 --> 00:16:51,199

treat malaria the list of people harmed

431

00:16:54,949 --> 00:16:52,880

by choosing homeopathy instead of

432

00:16:56,870 --> 00:16:54,959

seeking out real medicine is continually

433

00:16:57,990 --> 00:16:56,880

growing

434

00:17:00,069 --> 00:16:58,000

10.

435

00:17:02,790 --> 00:17:00,079

the advertising standards authority has

436

00:17:05,029 --> 00:17:02,800

received over 150 complaints of false

437

00:17:06,789 --> 00:17:05,039

advertising and misleading claims made

438

00:17:08,870 --> 00:17:06,799

by homeopaths

439

00:17:10,710 --> 00:17:08,880

homeopathic bodies seem unwilling or

440

00:17:13,510 --> 00:17:10,720

unable to stop their members making

441

00:17:14,789 --> 00:17:13,520

unsubstantiated claims

442

00:17:16,870 --> 00:17:14,799

11.

443

00:17:18,710 --> 00:17:16,880

many homeopaths regularly discourage

444

00:17:21,350 --> 00:17:18,720

conventional vaccination instead

445

00:17:23,909 --> 00:17:21,360

promoting dosodes these ineffective

446

00:17:26,309 --> 00:17:23,919

homeopathic vaccines put children at

447

00:17:29,110 --> 00:17:26,319

risk of diseases such as measles mumps

448

00:17:30,390 --> 00:17:29,120

rubella and whooping cough

449

00:17:32,070 --> 00:17:30,400

12.

450

00:17:33,990 --> 00:17:32,080

patients have been warned against using

451  
00:17:36,710 --> 00:17:34,000  
homeopathy by the house of commons the

452  
00:17:38,470 --> 00:17:36,720  
british medical association the nhs and

453  
00:17:40,950 --> 00:17:38,480  
the royal pharmaceutical society of

454  
00:17:42,789 --> 00:17:40,960  
northern ireland mark walport chief

455  
00:17:44,710 --> 00:17:42,799  
scientific advisor to the government

456  
00:17:46,789 --> 00:17:44,720  
surmised homeopathic treatments were

457  
00:17:49,029 --> 00:17:46,799  
nonsense with absolutely no medical

458  
00:17:51,270 --> 00:17:49,039  
benefit echoing the sentiments of the

459  
00:17:53,110 --> 00:17:51,280  
uk's chief medical officer

460  
00:17:53,990 --> 00:17:53,120  
it's clear that leading medical experts

461  
00:17:56,549 --> 00:17:54,000  
agree

462  
00:18:04,549 --> 00:17:56,559  
homeopathy simply does not work and

463  
00:18:08,150 --> 00:18:05,990

we wanted to get the full picture on

464

00:18:10,549 --> 00:18:08,160

this so we're talking to homeopath anna

465

00:18:13,190 --> 00:18:10,559

lamarro and immunologist professor john

466

00:18:15,029 --> 00:18:13,200

dwyer john homeopaths claim that not all

467

00:18:17,510 --> 00:18:15,039

the evidence has been reviewed is this

468

00:18:19,990 --> 00:18:17,520

report really based on solid evidence

469

00:18:22,470 --> 00:18:20,000

eminent specialists all of them are

470

00:18:24,630 --> 00:18:22,480

experts in studying clinical trials and

471

00:18:27,110 --> 00:18:24,640

research papers have spent two years

472

00:18:28,710 --> 00:18:27,120

studying more than 400 papers and have

473

00:18:31,350 --> 00:18:28,720

come to the same conclusion that

474

00:18:33,510 --> 00:18:31,360

homeopathy is a sham there's absolutely

475

00:18:35,350 --> 00:18:33,520

nothing no wrinkle room in these uh in

476

00:18:36,870 --> 00:18:35,360

this decision and this uh

477

00:18:39,190 --> 00:18:36,880

conclusion by the national health and

478

00:18:41,029 --> 00:18:39,200

medical research council there is no

479

00:18:43,350 --> 00:18:41,039

credible scientific evidence that

480

00:18:44,950 --> 00:18:43,360

homeopathy helps any health condition

481

00:18:47,190 --> 00:18:44,960

john can i ask you one question from a

482

00:18:49,909 --> 00:18:47,200

psychosomatic point of view if t if

483

00:18:52,390 --> 00:18:49,919

using homeopathy makes you feel good

484

00:18:54,310 --> 00:18:52,400

isn't it in some way effective

485

00:18:57,029 --> 00:18:54,320

well of course the placebo effect makes

486

00:19:00,070 --> 00:18:57,039

one feel good short term uh

487

00:19:01,909 --> 00:19:00,080

only of course but when homeopath

488

00:19:03,830 --> 00:19:01,919

suggests that they have a preparation

489

00:19:05,590 --> 00:19:03,840

that can say treat whooping cough a very

490

00:19:08,310 --> 00:19:05,600

serious illness or that they have

491

00:19:09,990 --> 00:19:08,320

vaccinations for things like hiv and tb

492

00:19:12,230 --> 00:19:10,000

and malaria which

493

00:19:15,029 --> 00:19:12,240

scientific medicine can't uh can't say

494

00:19:16,950 --> 00:19:15,039

that these are very serious claims and

495

00:19:19,669 --> 00:19:16,960

if people were to rely on them and think

496

00:19:21,350 --> 00:19:19,679

they were being protected and many many

497

00:19:22,549 --> 00:19:21,360

parents did think that they were

498

00:19:25,270 --> 00:19:22,559

protecting their children with

499

00:19:25,990 --> 00:19:25,280

homeopathic vaccines that's dangerous

500

00:19:28,470 --> 00:19:26,000

but

501  
00:19:30,789 --> 00:19:28,480  
above all that it's clearly unethical to

502  
00:19:32,549 --> 00:19:30,799  
just prescribe a placebo and pretend and

503  
00:19:34,230 --> 00:19:32,559  
fool a person into thinking that you're

504  
00:19:36,150 --> 00:19:34,240  
giving them an active medicine that

505  
00:19:39,270 --> 00:19:36,160  
might help them i take exception

506  
00:19:41,270 --> 00:19:39,280  
absolutely to being cast in this mode of

507  
00:19:43,029 --> 00:19:41,280  
fooling people by prescribing something

508  
00:19:45,270 --> 00:19:43,039  
that's merely placebo i've been in

509  
00:19:48,310 --> 00:19:45,280  
practice for 34 years and i can promise

510  
00:19:51,510 --> 00:19:48,320  
you that i've never prescribed a placebo

511  
00:19:54,390 --> 00:19:51,520  
let's come to the placebo effect we wish

512  
00:19:56,789 --> 00:19:54,400  
devoutly that the nh mrc had bothered to

513  
00:19:59,310 --> 00:19:56,799

look at the laboratory evidence and also

514

00:20:01,830 --> 00:19:59,320

the veterinary studies both of which are

515

00:20:04,150 --> 00:20:01,840

placebo-free zones and the veterinary

516

00:20:05,990 --> 00:20:04,160

studies there are 57 valid studies which

517

00:20:08,470 --> 00:20:06,000

show positively for homeopathy and a

518

00:20:11,110 --> 00:20:08,480

vast range of laboratory studies the lab

519

00:20:13,029 --> 00:20:11,120

bench is a placebo free zone well does

520

00:20:15,990 --> 00:20:13,039

let me tell anna that she's never

521

00:20:19,029 --> 00:20:16,000

prescribed anything but a placebo and

522

00:20:20,710 --> 00:20:19,039

that that's the fact of first year high

523

00:20:22,870 --> 00:20:20,720

school's chemistry student could look at

524

00:20:24,710 --> 00:20:22,880

the principles of homeopathy and know

525

00:20:27,190 --> 00:20:24,720

that it's it's non-science attraction

526

00:20:28,789 --> 00:20:27,200

i'm afraid you you and the prescribing

527

00:20:30,630 --> 00:20:28,799

of placebos

528

00:20:32,549 --> 00:20:30,640

i'm very much in my comfort zone but for

529

00:20:34,950 --> 00:20:32,559

the viewer there is no evidence that any

530

00:20:36,549 --> 00:20:34,960

homeopathic preparation has any active

531

00:20:38,470 --> 00:20:36,559

ingredients that help people with their

532

00:20:40,230 --> 00:20:38,480

health it's because we're talking about

533

00:20:43,590 --> 00:20:40,240

that

534

00:20:45,590 --> 00:20:43,600

have an effect beyond a molecular level

535

00:20:47,750 --> 00:20:45,600

no but there is no such thing well be

536

00:20:50,470 --> 00:20:47,760

that as it may i'm sure that homeopathy

537

00:20:53,350 --> 00:20:50,480

having survived 200 years of in fact you

538

00:20:55,750 --> 00:20:53,360

know highly oppositional uh public court

539

00:20:57,669 --> 00:20:55,760

will survive beyond this and and clients

540

00:21:00,070 --> 00:20:57,679

and patients will continue to make a

541

00:21:01,110 --> 00:21:00,080

choice uh for homeopathy i know we're

542

00:21:03,190 --> 00:21:01,120

going to have to leave it there thank

543

00:21:12,710 --> 00:21:03,200

you so much and thank you john as well

544

00:21:18,630 --> 00:21:15,669

published on the 10th of april 2014 by

545

00:21:20,950 --> 00:21:18,640

ken harvey as reported on the drum

546

00:21:23,110 --> 00:21:20,960

website from the abc

547

00:21:26,630 --> 00:21:23,120

broadcasting in australia

548

00:21:28,789 --> 00:21:26,640

we can't have it both ways on homeopathy

549

00:21:30,950 --> 00:21:28,799

this isn't the first time homeopathy has

550

00:21:33,110 --> 00:21:30,960

been debunked but the verdict of

551  
00:21:35,990 --> 00:21:33,120  
australia's peak health research body

552  
00:21:38,710 --> 00:21:36,000  
has implications for discredited

553  
00:21:41,750 --> 00:21:38,720  
academic degrees and health insurance

554  
00:21:43,990 --> 00:21:41,760  
subsidies rights can harvey

555  
00:21:45,070 --> 00:21:44,000  
the national health and medical research

556  
00:21:46,710 --> 00:21:45,080  
council

557  
00:21:48,950 --> 00:21:46,720  
nhmrc

558  
00:21:49,909 --> 00:21:48,960  
has released a draft information paper

559  
00:21:51,909 --> 00:21:49,919  
titled

560  
00:21:53,430 --> 00:21:51,919  
evidence on the effectiveness of

561  
00:21:56,950 --> 00:21:53,440  
homeopathy for treating health

562  
00:21:59,669 --> 00:21:56,960  
conditions homeopathy is a 200 year old

563  
00:22:02,070 --> 00:21:59,679

alternative medicine practice it has two

564

00:22:04,230 --> 00:22:02,080

core beliefs that are impossible to

565

00:22:05,750 --> 00:22:04,240

reconcile with modern scientific

566

00:22:09,350 --> 00:22:05,760

knowledge

567

00:22:12,310 --> 00:22:09,360

the first is that like cures like

568

00:22:14,390 --> 00:22:12,320

that is substances that cause symptoms

569

00:22:17,110 --> 00:22:14,400

in healthy people have the ability to

570

00:22:19,909 --> 00:22:17,120

treat people with similar symptoms when

571

00:22:21,669 --> 00:22:19,919

administered in minute amounts

572

00:22:24,070 --> 00:22:21,679

thus if a patient is complaining of

573

00:22:26,470 --> 00:22:24,080

difficulty sleeping a homeopath might

574

00:22:29,430 --> 00:22:26,480

prescribe coffee prepared according to

575

00:22:31,590 --> 00:22:29,440

the homeopathic principles

576

00:22:34,230 --> 00:22:31,600

the second belief is that cereal

577

00:22:37,909 --> 00:22:34,240

dilution and shaking the remedy

578

00:22:41,510 --> 00:22:37,919

potenization or dynamization releases

579

00:22:43,510 --> 00:22:41,520

immaterial and spiritual powers

580

00:22:44,470 --> 00:22:43,520

therefore making the substance more

581

00:22:46,390 --> 00:22:44,480

active

582

00:22:48,230 --> 00:22:46,400

homeopaths believe that they can treat a

583

00:22:51,029 --> 00:22:48,240

broad range of acute and chronic

584

00:22:53,430 --> 00:22:51,039

conditions in all patients of all ages

585

00:22:55,669 --> 00:22:53,440

including pregnant women mothers fathers

586

00:22:58,149 --> 00:22:55,679

babies young children teenagers and the

587

00:22:59,669 --> 00:22:58,159

elderly however based on all the

588

00:23:01,750 --> 00:22:59,679

evidence considered

589

00:23:03,909 --> 00:23:01,760

the nhmrc

590

00:23:06,470 --> 00:23:03,919

concluded that there was no health

591

00:23:09,990 --> 00:23:06,480

conditions for which there was reliable

592

00:23:12,149 --> 00:23:10,000

evidence that homeopathy was effective

593

00:23:14,870 --> 00:23:12,159

the conclusion is similar to that of the

594

00:23:17,350 --> 00:23:14,880

2010 uk house of commons science and

595

00:23:19,270 --> 00:23:17,360

technology select committee which also

596

00:23:23,110 --> 00:23:19,280

looked at the scientific evidence and

597

00:23:26,070 --> 00:23:23,120

stated quote in our view the symptomatic

598

00:23:27,909 --> 00:23:26,080

reviews and meta-analysis conclusively

599

00:23:30,710 --> 00:23:27,919

demonstrates that homeopathic products

600

00:23:33,149 --> 00:23:30,720

perform no better than placebos end

601  
00:23:36,990 --> 00:23:33,159  
quote so why did the

602  
00:23:40,149 --> 00:23:37,000  
nhmrc commission their own report the

603  
00:23:42,789 --> 00:23:40,159  
nhmrc has been concerned about reports

604  
00:23:45,190 --> 00:23:42,799  
of non-evidence-based complementary or

605  
00:23:47,430 --> 00:23:45,200  
alternative medicine being used in place

606  
00:23:49,590 --> 00:23:47,440  
of evidence-based treatments for

607  
00:23:51,029 --> 00:23:49,600  
patients with serious but treatable

608  
00:23:52,950 --> 00:23:51,039  
conditions

609  
00:23:55,510 --> 00:23:52,960  
the preventable deaths of penelope

610  
00:23:56,870 --> 00:23:55,520  
ningle and gloria thomas provide two

611  
00:23:59,750 --> 00:23:56,880  
examples

612  
00:24:01,350 --> 00:23:59,760  
in addition the nhmrc

613  
00:24:04,149 --> 00:24:01,360

was asked to assist the department of

614

00:24:06,310 --> 00:24:04,159

health with a review of whether natural

615

00:24:08,710 --> 00:24:06,320

therapy should continue to receive an

616

00:24:10,230 --> 00:24:08,720

australian government rebate on private

617

00:24:12,310 --> 00:24:10,240

health insurance

618

00:24:14,070 --> 00:24:12,320

the purpose of the review is to ensure

619

00:24:17,029 --> 00:24:14,080

that taxpayer funds paid through the

620

00:24:19,750 --> 00:24:17,039

rebate subsidise only natural therapies

621

00:24:21,269 --> 00:24:19,760

that are underpinned with a credible

622

00:24:23,750 --> 00:24:21,279

evidence base

623

00:24:26,470 --> 00:24:23,760

homeopathy is one of a number of natural

624

00:24:29,350 --> 00:24:26,480

therapies for which many private health

625

00:24:32,789 --> 00:24:29,360

insurance funds provide an auxiliary

626  
00:24:36,549 --> 00:24:32,799  
extra cover and for which the government

627  
00:24:38,789 --> 00:24:36,559  
provides a 20 to 40 percent rebate the

628  
00:24:41,029 --> 00:24:38,799  
ancillary benefits provided by different

629  
00:24:42,310 --> 00:24:41,039  
funds are currently a commercial

630  
00:24:43,990 --> 00:24:42,320  
decision

631  
00:24:47,590 --> 00:24:44,000  
they take no account of clinical

632  
00:24:49,830 --> 00:24:47,600  
effectiveness and vary widely with

633  
00:24:52,549 --> 00:24:49,840  
respect to the services covered and the

634  
00:24:55,510 --> 00:24:52,559  
maximum money refunded per service per

635  
00:24:57,590 --> 00:24:55,520  
person per year while natural therapies

636  
00:25:00,390 --> 00:24:57,600  
only provide a relatively small

637  
00:25:03,190 --> 00:25:00,400  
proportion 6.5 percent

638  
00:25:05,590 --> 00:25:03,200

of all ancillary benefits paid

639

00:25:07,190 --> 00:25:05,600

they are growing at a much greater rate

640

00:25:09,669 --> 00:25:07,200

than other services

641

00:25:12,470 --> 00:25:09,679

for example between september 2000 and

642

00:25:14,870 --> 00:25:12,480

september 2013 the number of dental

643

00:25:17,430 --> 00:25:14,880

services funded doubled whereas natural

644

00:25:20,870 --> 00:25:17,440

therapy services increased

645

00:25:23,350 --> 00:25:20,880

nine fold a natural therapies review

646

00:25:26,630 --> 00:25:23,360

advisory committee has been set up to

647

00:25:29,110 --> 00:25:26,640

review the findings of the nhmrc

648

00:25:30,950 --> 00:25:29,120

and provide advice to the government as

649

00:25:32,710 --> 00:25:30,960

to which therapy should continue to

650

00:25:33,710 --> 00:25:32,720

attract a rebate

651  
00:25:37,029 --> 00:25:33,720  
given the

652  
00:25:39,190 --> 00:25:37,039  
nhmrc's report on homeopathy it seems

653  
00:25:41,669 --> 00:25:39,200  
unlikely that homeopathy will continue

654  
00:25:43,750 --> 00:25:41,679  
to attract a rebate after the 1st of

655  
00:25:46,149 --> 00:25:43,760  
april 2015

656  
00:25:47,430 --> 00:25:46,159  
the date that changes are expected to be

657  
00:25:51,110 --> 00:25:47,440  
implemented

658  
00:25:53,350 --> 00:25:51,120  
the nhmrc report is also likely to

659  
00:25:55,350 --> 00:25:53,360  
impact on other areas

660  
00:25:58,630 --> 00:25:55,360  
a number of natural health colleges

661  
00:26:00,789 --> 00:25:58,640  
offer degrees and diplomas in homeopathy

662  
00:26:03,190 --> 00:26:00,799  
for example the endeavor college of

663  
00:26:06,710 --> 00:26:03,200

natural health notes that its bachelor

664

00:26:08,710 --> 00:26:06,720

of health science homeopathy is quote

665

00:26:11,269 --> 00:26:08,720

accredited through the office of higher

666

00:26:13,750 --> 00:26:11,279

education and as such students are

667

00:26:16,710 --> 00:26:13,760

entitled to the federal government's fee

668

00:26:18,230 --> 00:26:16,720

help scheme which is similar to the

669

00:26:20,630 --> 00:26:18,240

hex system

670

00:26:23,590 --> 00:26:20,640

and open to any Australian citizen

671

00:26:25,430 --> 00:26:23,600

undertaking a degree unquote

672

00:26:28,149 --> 00:26:25,440

if one arm of government states that

673

00:26:30,230 --> 00:26:28,159

homeopathy lacks an evidence base

674

00:26:33,430 --> 00:26:30,240

should another accredit homeopathy

675

00:26:36,149 --> 00:26:33,440

courses and assist with student fees

676  
00:26:38,789 --> 00:26:36,159  
naturopaths may also have to reconsider

677  
00:26:41,590 --> 00:26:38,799  
their treatment methods one of which is

678  
00:26:43,990 --> 00:26:41,600  
homeopathy indeed a number of other

679  
00:26:46,549 --> 00:26:44,000  
diagnostic and treatment modalities used

680  
00:26:48,630 --> 00:26:46,559  
by naturopaths are in the scope of the

681  
00:26:51,510 --> 00:26:48,640  
government review and are currently

682  
00:26:55,190 --> 00:26:51,520  
being evaluated by the nhmrc

683  
00:26:56,470 --> 00:26:55,200  
including iridology reflexology and

684  
00:26:58,470 --> 00:26:56,480  
herbalism

685  
00:27:00,630 --> 00:26:58,480  
a survey of general practitioner

686  
00:27:02,549 --> 00:27:00,640  
referral and practice in rural and

687  
00:27:05,029 --> 00:27:02,559  
regional new south wales published in

688  
00:27:09,269 --> 00:27:05,039

2013 shows that only

689

00:27:10,470 --> 00:27:09,279

0.5 percent of 600 respondents

690

00:27:13,190 --> 00:27:10,480

gps

691

00:27:16,470 --> 00:27:13,200

had prescribed homeopathy in the last 12

692

00:27:18,470 --> 00:27:16,480

months and only 8.5 percent referred

693

00:27:21,590 --> 00:27:18,480

patients for homeopathic treatment over

694

00:27:23,590 --> 00:27:21,600

the same period nearly two-thirds of gps

695

00:27:25,750 --> 00:27:23,600

reported that they would not refer a

696

00:27:27,590 --> 00:27:25,760

patient for homeopathy under any

697

00:27:29,430 --> 00:27:27,600

circumstances

698

00:27:32,549 --> 00:27:29,440

it will be interesting to see if the

699

00:27:35,350 --> 00:27:32,559

nhmrc report changes such patterns in

700

00:27:38,470 --> 00:27:35,360

the uk homeopathic prescriptions have

701  
00:27:41,110 --> 00:27:38,480  
undergone a steep decline in the past 15

702  
00:27:43,750 --> 00:27:41,120  
years pharmacists who sell homeopathic

703  
00:27:46,549 --> 00:27:43,760  
remedies such as the brower product

704  
00:27:49,430 --> 00:27:46,559  
range may also need to have a rethink

705  
00:27:51,750 --> 00:27:49,440  
especially as the pharmacy board code of

706  
00:27:55,029 --> 00:27:51,760  
conduct includes

707  
00:27:57,110 --> 00:27:55,039  
quote providing treatment options based

708  
00:27:59,590 --> 00:27:57,120  
on the best available information and

709  
00:28:01,590 --> 00:27:59,600  
not influenced by financial gains or

710  
00:28:03,430 --> 00:28:01,600  
incentives end quote

711  
00:28:05,909 --> 00:28:03,440  
companies who provide homeopathic

712  
00:28:09,029 --> 00:28:05,919  
remedies may also have to update their

713  
00:28:11,430 --> 00:28:09,039

professional educational information

714

00:28:13,190 --> 00:28:11,440

finally recognizing that patients often

715

00:28:15,750 --> 00:28:13,200

don't inform their doctors about the

716

00:28:19,590 --> 00:28:15,760

complementary medicines they are taking

717

00:28:21,909 --> 00:28:19,600

and doctors don't often ask the nhmrc

718

00:28:23,590 --> 00:28:21,919

has also produced another useful

719

00:28:25,830 --> 00:28:23,600

document

720

00:28:27,750 --> 00:28:25,840

talking with your patients about

721

00:28:29,590 --> 00:28:27,760

complementary medicine

722

00:28:32,389 --> 00:28:29,600

while intended to be a resource for

723

00:28:34,789 --> 00:28:32,399

clinicians it is equally valuable for

724

00:28:37,190 --> 00:28:34,799

patients and the general public

725

00:28:39,110 --> 00:28:37,200

dr ken harvey is an adjunct associate

726

00:28:40,950 --> 00:28:39,120

professor at the school of public health

727

00:28:42,389 --> 00:28:40,960

and preventable medicine monash

728

00:28:44,950 --> 00:28:42,399

university

729

00:28:47,190 --> 00:28:44,960

he represents the consumer health forum

730

00:28:56,230 --> 00:28:47,200

on the natural therapies review advisory

731

00:29:00,230 --> 00:28:58,549

hello this is joe alabaster

732

00:29:01,830 --> 00:29:00,240

last week you heard richard saunders

733

00:29:03,909 --> 00:29:01,840

mentioned that the better health channel

734

00:29:05,350 --> 00:29:03,919

was promoting world homeopathy awareness

735

00:29:06,470 --> 00:29:05,360

week on the events section of their

736

00:29:08,310 --> 00:29:06,480

website

737

00:29:10,830 --> 00:29:08,320

homeopathy was being associated with

738

00:29:13,190 --> 00:29:10,840

men's health issues including prostate

739

00:29:14,549 --> 00:29:13,200

cancer the better health channel fully

740

00:29:17,110 --> 00:29:14,559

funded by the state government of

741

00:29:18,710 --> 00:29:17,120

victoria describes itself as a provider

742

00:29:20,389 --> 00:29:18,720

of quote

743

00:29:23,510 --> 00:29:20,399

health and medical information that is

744

00:29:25,830 --> 00:29:23,520

quality assured reliable up-to-date easy

745

00:29:28,230 --> 00:29:25,840

to understand regularly reviewed and

746

00:29:29,830 --> 00:29:28,240

locally relevant end quote

747

00:29:31,510 --> 00:29:29,840

i've actually used their website many

748

00:29:33,269 --> 00:29:31,520

times as i've found their fact sheets on

749

00:29:35,350 --> 00:29:33,279

medical conditions to be accurate and

750

00:29:36,789 --> 00:29:35,360

accessible in fact i've linked to them

751

00:29:38,470 --> 00:29:36,799

repeatedly from my blog at

752

00:29:40,070 --> 00:29:38,480

evidenceplace.net

753

00:29:41,269 --> 00:29:40,080

when discussing vaccine preventable

754

00:29:43,029 --> 00:29:41,279

diseases

755

00:29:44,870 --> 00:29:43,039

i know of many people both healthcare

756

00:29:46,630 --> 00:29:44,880

professionals and lay people who regard

757

00:29:48,310 --> 00:29:46,640

better health channel highly and refer

758

00:29:50,070 --> 00:29:48,320

others to their website

759

00:29:51,669 --> 00:29:50,080

unfortunately there is an aspect to

760

00:29:53,510 --> 00:29:51,679

better health channel that advocates of

761

00:29:54,630 --> 00:29:53,520

evidence-based medicine and not entirely

762

00:29:56,230 --> 00:29:54,640

happy with

763

00:29:59,269 --> 00:29:56,240

some of their pages on alternative

764

00:30:00,630 --> 00:29:59,279

medicine are rather uncritical in tone

765

00:30:02,470 --> 00:30:00,640

often written in conjunction with

766

00:30:04,230 --> 00:30:02,480

professional associations of old med

767

00:30:06,149 --> 00:30:04,240

practitioners descriptions of

768

00:30:08,310 --> 00:30:06,159

alternative therapies are provided with

769

00:30:09,990 --> 00:30:08,320

no mention of efficacy or even whether

770

00:30:11,909 --> 00:30:10,000

the mechanisms they're based on are all

771

00:30:13,590 --> 00:30:11,919

that plausible i'm looking at you

772

00:30:15,750 --> 00:30:13,600

naturopathy with your vitalism and

773

00:30:17,590 --> 00:30:15,760

invisible life force

774

00:30:19,590 --> 00:30:17,600

as a government-funded website which is

775

00:30:21,669 --> 00:30:19,600

trusted and relied upon i think that the

776  
00:30:22,710 --> 00:30:21,679  
better health channel can and should do

777  
00:30:24,630 --> 00:30:22,720  
better

778  
00:30:27,029 --> 00:30:24,640  
world homeopathy awareness week is upon

779  
00:30:28,870 --> 00:30:27,039  
us and this year skeptics are again very

780  
00:30:32,070 --> 00:30:28,880  
much embracing the opportunity to spread

781  
00:30:33,990 --> 00:30:32,080  
awareness that homeopathy is bulldozed

782  
00:30:35,510 --> 00:30:34,000  
one evening last week i was curious as

783  
00:30:37,350 --> 00:30:35,520  
to whether any events were occurring

784  
00:30:39,590 --> 00:30:37,360  
here in australia to promote awareness

785  
00:30:41,830 --> 00:30:39,600  
of homeopathy either being run by its

786  
00:30:43,269 --> 00:30:41,840  
proponents or its critics

787  
00:30:44,950 --> 00:30:43,279  
in doing a google search i was

788  
00:30:47,029 --> 00:30:44,960

incredibly disappointed to find that on

789

00:30:49,590 --> 00:30:47,039

the first page of results there was a

790

00:30:51,350 --> 00:30:49,600

link to better health channel's website

791

00:30:53,269 --> 00:30:51,360

on their events page was a listing for

792

00:30:55,350 --> 00:30:53,279

world homeopathy awareness week which

793

00:30:57,430 --> 00:30:55,360

read quote

794

00:31:00,470 --> 00:30:57,440

event world homeopathy awareness week

795

00:31:03,669 --> 00:31:00,480

2014 organization world homeopathy

796

00:31:05,350 --> 00:31:03,679

awareness organization description

797

00:31:08,389 --> 00:31:05,360

this year's theme for world homeopathy

798

00:31:10,710 --> 00:31:08,399

awareness week from 10 to 16 april 2014

799

00:31:12,149 --> 00:31:10,720

is men's health for this theme we are

800

00:31:14,470 --> 00:31:12,159

thinking of the typical men's health

801  
00:31:17,430 --> 00:31:14,480  
problems such as impotency erection

802  
00:31:19,830 --> 00:31:17,440  
problems infertility prostate problems

803  
00:31:21,750 --> 00:31:19,840  
prostatitis prostate cancer enlarged

804  
00:31:23,669 --> 00:31:21,760  
prostate end quote a

805  
00:31:25,190 --> 00:31:23,679  
government-sponsored website trusted by

806  
00:31:27,669 --> 00:31:25,200  
the public and many medical

807  
00:31:29,190 --> 00:31:27,679  
professionals to provide reliable and

808  
00:31:31,029 --> 00:31:29,200  
accurate health information was

809  
00:31:33,029 --> 00:31:31,039  
promoting an event which suggested that

810  
00:31:36,070 --> 00:31:33,039  
homeopathy had a place in the treatment

811  
00:31:37,750 --> 00:31:36,080  
of men's health issues including cancer

812  
00:31:39,430 --> 00:31:37,760  
not happy

813  
00:31:41,029 --> 00:31:39,440

fortunately there are actions that

814

00:31:42,470 --> 00:31:41,039

members of the public can take when we

815

00:31:44,149 --> 00:31:42,480

come across potentially dangerous

816

00:31:46,310 --> 00:31:44,159

misinformation published by those in a

817

00:31:48,230 --> 00:31:46,320

position of responsibility especially

818

00:31:49,830 --> 00:31:48,240

when they're government funded

819

00:31:51,669 --> 00:31:49,840

the better health channel has a feedback

820

00:31:53,110 --> 00:31:51,679

form at the bottom of their page they

821

00:31:54,789 --> 00:31:53,120

also have a twitter account and a

822

00:31:56,630 --> 00:31:54,799

facebook page

823

00:31:58,070 --> 00:31:56,640

many people myself included have

824

00:31:59,909 --> 00:31:58,080

contacted the better health channel in

825

00:32:01,509 --> 00:31:59,919

the past regarding their fact pages and

826

00:32:03,190 --> 00:32:01,519

alternative therapies

827

00:32:05,190 --> 00:32:03,200

form letter replies can be a little

828

00:32:06,870 --> 00:32:05,200

disheartening particularly when no

829

00:32:08,630 --> 00:32:06,880

change seems to result

830

00:32:10,710 --> 00:32:08,640

however in the case of the world

831

00:32:13,029 --> 00:32:10,720

homeopathy awareness week event listing

832

00:32:14,710 --> 00:32:13,039

it was worth trying again

833

00:32:15,990 --> 00:32:14,720

after sending the better health channels

834

00:32:17,509 --> 00:32:16,000

some quick and polite feedback

835

00:32:19,269 --> 00:32:17,519

expressing my disappointment that they

836

00:32:21,190 --> 00:32:19,279

would promote world homeopathy awareness

837

00:32:23,430 --> 00:32:21,200

week i began chatting with friends and

838

00:32:25,430 --> 00:32:23,440

fellow skeptics the skeptics in

839

00:32:27,029 --> 00:32:25,440

australia facebook page was a fantastic

840

00:32:28,950 --> 00:32:27,039

way to reach many people who found the

841

00:32:30,470 --> 00:32:28,960

event listing concerning as was

842

00:32:32,389 --> 00:32:30,480

utilizing twitter

843

00:32:33,830 --> 00:32:32,399

a mention from the skeptic's own podcast

844

00:32:36,149 --> 00:32:33,840

helped get the word out to a significant

845

00:32:38,269 --> 00:32:36,159

number of people as well

846

00:32:40,630 --> 00:32:38,279

in a wonderful case of good timing the

847

00:32:42,389 --> 00:32:40,640

nhmrc's draft information paper on

848

00:32:44,389 --> 00:32:42,399

homeopathy was released later that

849

00:32:46,149 --> 00:32:44,399

evening garnering more public support

850

00:32:47,350 --> 00:32:46,159

and awareness of homeopathy's lack of

851  
00:32:48,630 --> 00:32:47,360  
efficacy

852  
00:32:50,389 --> 00:32:48,640  
people wrote to the better health

853  
00:32:53,029 --> 00:32:50,399  
channel tweeted using their twitter

854  
00:32:54,710 --> 00:32:53,039  
handle posted on their facebook page

855  
00:32:56,230 --> 00:32:54,720  
others wrote directly to the victorian

856  
00:32:58,389 --> 00:32:56,240  
health minister's office to express

857  
00:33:00,149 --> 00:32:58,399  
their concerns

858  
00:33:01,909 --> 00:33:00,159  
a few days later which happened to be

859  
00:33:03,990 --> 00:33:01,919  
the first day of world homeopathy

860  
00:33:06,070 --> 00:33:04,000  
awareness week some very heartening news

861  
00:33:07,669 --> 00:33:06,080  
arrived i received an email from the

862  
00:33:10,470 --> 00:33:07,679  
better health channel thanking me for my

863  
00:33:12,630 --> 00:33:10,480

feedback and stating that quote

864

00:33:14,630 --> 00:33:12,640

complementary and alternative medicines

865

00:33:15,830 --> 00:33:14,640

have high use amongst health consumers

866

00:33:18,950 --> 00:33:15,840

in australia

867

00:33:20,630 --> 00:33:18,960

in publishing bhc information on cam we

868

00:33:21,990 --> 00:33:20,640

recognize the need to address a range of

869

00:33:24,710 --> 00:33:22,000

health concerns and questions of

870

00:33:26,310 --> 00:33:24,720

interest to visitors to our site our aim

871

00:33:28,950 --> 00:33:26,320

is to provide the public with suitable

872

00:33:31,029 --> 00:33:28,960

information about cam without in any

873

00:33:33,110 --> 00:33:31,039

sense promoting it as a replacement for

874

00:33:34,789 --> 00:33:33,120

conventional medicine or endorsing all

875

00:33:36,950 --> 00:33:34,799

of the claims made by the many different

876

00:33:39,350 --> 00:33:36,960

streams within the field

877

00:33:41,509 --> 00:33:39,360

the bhc event calendar is an information

878

00:33:43,350 --> 00:33:41,519

resource and the placement of an event

879

00:33:45,029 --> 00:33:43,360

in the bhc calendar is not an

880

00:33:46,070 --> 00:33:45,039

endorsement or recommendation for that

881

00:33:49,669 --> 00:33:46,080

event

882

00:33:51,509 --> 00:33:49,679

are for information only

883

00:33:53,669 --> 00:33:51,519

we do reserve the right to moderate and

884

00:33:55,830 --> 00:33:53,679

remove events and in light of the recent

885

00:33:57,509 --> 00:33:55,840

considerations we have decided to remove

886

00:33:58,870 --> 00:33:57,519

the event from our health events

887

00:33:59,750 --> 00:33:58,880

calendar

888

00:34:01,269 --> 00:33:59,760

well

889

00:34:02,310 --> 00:34:01,279

kudos to the better health channel for

890

00:34:04,230 --> 00:34:02,320

coming down on the side of

891

00:34:05,990 --> 00:34:04,240

evidence-based medicine

892

00:34:07,509 --> 00:34:06,000

i'm also pleased to report that better

893

00:34:09,349 --> 00:34:07,519

health channel are currently reviewing

894

00:34:11,349 --> 00:34:09,359

the contents of their homeopathy fact

895

00:34:13,669 --> 00:34:11,359

page which many people also express

896

00:34:15,990 --> 00:34:13,679

concern about when contacting them both

897

00:34:17,909 --> 00:34:16,000

directly and via social media

898

00:34:18,950 --> 00:34:17,919

in an email to me about the review they

899

00:34:22,069 --> 00:34:18,960

have written

900

00:34:24,550 --> 00:34:22,079

quote as part of each review we aim to

901  
00:34:26,470 --> 00:34:24,560  
take into account the current research

902  
00:34:29,190 --> 00:34:26,480  
findings and we'll be looking at the

903  
00:34:31,430 --> 00:34:29,200  
nhmrc's draft information paper in this

904  
00:34:32,629 --> 00:34:31,440  
case end quote

905  
00:34:34,389 --> 00:34:32,639  
the better health channel's new

906  
00:34:36,550 --> 00:34:34,399  
homeopathy fact sheet will certainly be

907  
00:34:38,149 --> 00:34:36,560  
something to look out for in the interim

908  
00:34:39,829 --> 00:34:38,159  
though the immediate result of a group

909  
00:34:42,149 --> 00:34:39,839  
of people writing letters and taking to

910  
00:34:43,669 --> 00:34:42,159  
social media has been fantastic

911  
00:34:45,669 --> 00:34:43,679  
the better health channel is now no

912  
00:34:47,669 --> 00:34:45,679  
longer promoting an event that suggests

913  
00:34:49,190 --> 00:34:47,679

that a non-evidence-based practice has a

914

00:34:50,790 --> 00:34:49,200

place in the treatment of men's health

915

00:34:52,550 --> 00:34:50,800

issues

916

00:34:54,310 --> 00:34:52,560

while the removal of the event is merely

917

00:34:57,109 --> 00:34:54,320

a drop in the ocean of raising public

918

00:34:58,790 --> 00:34:57,119

awareness that homeopathy is bulldust

919

00:35:01,030 --> 00:34:58,800

unlike an active ingredient within a

920

00:35:03,349 --> 00:35:01,040

homeopathic dilution the results of our

921

00:35:09,589 --> 00:35:03,359

skeptical activism are detectable and

922

00:35:15,270 --> 00:35:13,030

and now the views from homeopathy plus

923

00:35:18,550 --> 00:35:15,280

homeopathy plus don't forget won the

924

00:35:20,310 --> 00:35:18,560

australian skeptics ben spoon award in

925

00:35:23,510 --> 00:35:20,320

2012

926  
00:35:26,310 --> 00:35:23,520  
from homeopathy plus dot com dot a u

927  
00:35:30,550 --> 00:35:26,320  
no evidence or poor methodology

928  
00:35:32,550 --> 00:35:30,560  
the nhmrc homeopathy draft report

929  
00:35:34,310 --> 00:35:32,560  
april 2014

930  
00:35:38,230 --> 00:35:34,320  
the national health and medical research

931  
00:35:40,470 --> 00:35:38,240  
council nhmic released its revised draft

932  
00:35:42,150 --> 00:35:40,480  
document evidence on the effectiveness

933  
00:35:46,310 --> 00:35:42,160  
of homeopathy for treating health

934  
00:35:47,190 --> 00:35:46,320  
conditions on april 9 2014 it states in

935  
00:35:49,349 --> 00:35:47,200  
part

936  
00:35:51,270 --> 00:35:49,359  
quote there is no reliable evidence that

937  
00:35:53,510 --> 00:35:51,280  
homeopathy is effective for treating

938  
00:35:56,150 --> 00:35:53,520

health conditions end quote the

939

00:35:59,270 --> 00:35:56,160

worldwide homeopathic community is both

940

00:36:02,069 --> 00:35:59,280

dismayed but unsurprised by the report

941

00:36:04,150 --> 00:36:02,079

as the nhmrc working group was

942

00:36:06,230 --> 00:36:04,160

compromised from its inception by

943

00:36:08,870 --> 00:36:06,240

failing to have at least one qualified

944

00:36:11,430 --> 00:36:08,880

homeopath on its panel though several

945

00:36:13,750 --> 00:36:11,440

suitable candidates were presented

946

00:36:14,950 --> 00:36:13,760

different principles underpin studies

947

00:36:18,390 --> 00:36:14,960

and practice

948

00:36:20,630 --> 00:36:18,400

when examining the nhmrc draft report it

949

00:36:22,550 --> 00:36:20,640

is important to realize that homeopathy

950

00:36:24,310 --> 00:36:22,560

is practiced by very different

951  
00:36:26,630 --> 00:36:24,320  
principles to those of conventional

952  
00:36:30,069 --> 00:36:26,640  
medicine in drawing its conclusions on

953  
00:36:32,470 --> 00:36:30,079  
homeopathy the nhmrc overlooks studies

954  
00:36:34,630 --> 00:36:32,480  
based on these principles and clinical

955  
00:36:37,349 --> 00:36:34,640  
practice in favor of less suitable

956  
00:36:39,990 --> 00:36:37,359  
studies that focused on isolated disease

957  
00:36:42,069 --> 00:36:40,000  
conditions studies much more suited to

958  
00:36:44,630 --> 00:36:42,079  
the allopathic

959  
00:36:46,950 --> 00:36:44,640  
conventional model of treatment this

960  
00:36:49,270 --> 00:36:46,960  
alone has had a negative impact on the

961  
00:36:52,069 --> 00:36:49,280  
nhmrc findings

962  
00:36:53,030 --> 00:36:52,079  
aha recommends a more comprehensive

963  
00:36:55,109 --> 00:36:53,040

approach

964

00:36:58,069 --> 00:36:55,119

to overcome this problem the australian

965

00:37:01,349 --> 00:36:58,079

homeopathic association has recommended

966

00:37:04,069 --> 00:37:01,359

the nih mrc take a quote more

967

00:37:06,550 --> 00:37:04,079

comprehensive approach and quote in its

968

00:37:08,790 --> 00:37:06,560

analysis of homeopathy so that evidence

969

00:37:10,550 --> 00:37:08,800

for its effectiveness is more easily

970

00:37:14,470 --> 00:37:10,560

identified and studied

971

00:37:16,390 --> 00:37:14,480

atms says no evidence of ineffectiveness

972

00:37:19,589 --> 00:37:16,400

the australian traditional medical

973

00:37:21,750 --> 00:37:19,599

society atms says the draft report has

974

00:37:24,310 --> 00:37:21,760

no compelling evidence of a lack of

975

00:37:26,630 --> 00:37:24,320

effectiveness with homeopathy just a

976  
00:37:28,230 --> 00:37:26,640  
lack of high quality studies

977  
00:37:30,710 --> 00:37:28,240  
they call on the federal government to

978  
00:37:33,030 --> 00:37:30,720  
support and fund these studies

979  
00:37:36,310 --> 00:37:33,040  
just as it does for other therapies

980  
00:37:38,390 --> 00:37:36,320  
the atms advises it has already provided

981  
00:37:41,510 --> 00:37:38,400  
numerous examples of studies in which

982  
00:37:43,990 --> 00:37:41,520  
homeopathy is superior to placebo to the

983  
00:37:46,710 --> 00:37:44,000  
chief medical officer and says that to

984  
00:37:48,470 --> 00:37:46,720  
place the report in context only 30

985  
00:37:50,790 --> 00:37:48,480  
percent of all conventional medical

986  
00:37:52,870 --> 00:37:50,800  
procedures are supported by a strong

987  
00:37:54,390 --> 00:37:52,880  
evidence base according to the british

988  
00:37:57,270 --> 00:37:54,400

medical journal

989

00:37:59,430 --> 00:37:57,280

prophylactic and other studies excluded

990

00:38:02,069 --> 00:37:59,440

a significant amount of evidence for the

991

00:38:05,030 --> 00:38:02,079

effectiveness of homeopathy has been

992

00:38:07,670 --> 00:38:05,040

lost by the nhmrc exclusion of

993

00:38:09,750 --> 00:38:07,680

homeopathic prophylactic studies

994

00:38:13,030 --> 00:38:09,760

some of the largest observational

995

00:38:16,310 --> 00:38:13,040

studies ever conducted the nhmrc

996

00:38:18,230 --> 00:38:16,320

also says it will not accept studies on

997

00:38:20,550 --> 00:38:18,240

quote the use of homeopathy for

998

00:38:22,630 --> 00:38:20,560

preventing health conditions including

999

00:38:25,510 --> 00:38:22,640

homeopathic vaccines

1000

00:38:28,230 --> 00:38:25,520

or whether homeopathy maintains and or

1001  
00:38:30,470 --> 00:38:28,240  
enhances general health as part of its

1002  
00:38:32,390 --> 00:38:30,480  
call for further submissions

1003  
00:38:34,790 --> 00:38:32,400  
as these studies provide some of the

1004  
00:38:37,510 --> 00:38:34,800  
clearest evidence of homeopathy's

1005  
00:38:40,470 --> 00:38:37,520  
effectiveness the question must be asked

1006  
00:38:42,150 --> 00:38:40,480  
why are they along with animal studies

1007  
00:38:43,829 --> 00:38:42,160  
being excluded

1008  
00:38:46,950 --> 00:38:43,839  
at what cost

1009  
00:38:48,950 --> 00:38:46,960  
the nhmrc draft report has been more

1010  
00:38:51,030 --> 00:38:48,960  
than three years in the making and so

1011  
00:38:54,950 --> 00:38:51,040  
far according to reports

1012  
00:38:56,630 --> 00:38:54,960  
has cost the taxpayer 140 000

1013  
00:38:58,950 --> 00:38:56,640

all the more reason to ensure its

1014

00:39:01,190 --> 00:38:58,960

integrity but is that all this report

1015

00:39:03,270 --> 00:39:01,200

will cost according to the world health

1016

00:39:05,190 --> 00:39:03,280

organization homeopathy is the most

1017

00:39:06,550 --> 00:39:05,200

widely used alternative medicine in the

1018

00:39:09,270 --> 00:39:06,560

world today

1019

00:39:11,990 --> 00:39:09,280

and second only to conventional medicine

1020

00:39:14,069 --> 00:39:12,000

many millions of people rely on it as a

1021

00:39:17,030 --> 00:39:14,079

primary form of healthcare

1022

00:39:19,270 --> 00:39:17,040

and they know it works the nhmrc

1023

00:39:21,030 --> 00:39:19,280

continues to exclude important evidence

1024

00:39:23,190 --> 00:39:21,040

from its examination

1025

00:39:25,349 --> 00:39:23,200

and if it chooses to word its final

1026

00:39:27,470 --> 00:39:25,359

report in such a way that it has been

1027

00:39:30,069 --> 00:39:27,480

used to discredit homeopathy and

1028

00:39:32,790 --> 00:39:30,079

disenfranchise australian uses of

1029

00:39:34,790 --> 00:39:32,800

homeopathy the greatest cost of all will

1030

00:39:37,589 --> 00:39:34,800

be borne by the australian government

1031

00:39:38,550 --> 00:39:37,599

the scientific community and the nhmrc

1032

00:39:41,109 --> 00:39:38,560

itself

1033

00:39:42,870 --> 00:39:41,119

trust lost is never easily regained and

1034

00:39:46,470 --> 00:39:42,880

that is what is truly at stake with this

1035

00:39:49,430 --> 00:39:46,480

report call for submissions the nhmrc is

1036

00:39:51,670 --> 00:39:49,440

now calling for final public submissions

1037

00:39:54,150 --> 00:39:51,680

and comment on the draft information

1038

00:39:56,550 --> 00:39:54,160

paper anyone can make a submission of

1039

00:39:58,550 --> 00:39:56,560

additional evidence it does not have to

1040

00:40:01,510 --> 00:39:58,560

come from within australia

1041

00:40:15,430 --> 00:40:01,520

the deadline closes on monday 26th may

1042

00:40:15,440 --> 00:40:40,710

foreign

1043

00:40:44,390 --> 00:40:42,390

hey everybody my name is kirill and i'm

1044

00:40:46,310 --> 00:40:44,400

the founder of skeptic society russia

1045

00:40:48,230 --> 00:40:46,320

come visit us in moscow in our bi-weekly

1046

00:40:50,230 --> 00:40:48,240

meetings and also listen to our weekly

1047

00:40:51,990 --> 00:40:50,240

podcast which is called skeptic and the

1048

00:41:05,990 --> 00:40:52,000

site where you can find all of that is

1049

00:41:10,390 --> 00:41:08,790

welcome to a week in science from rios

1050

00:41:11,349 --> 00:41:10,400

bringing you the science you need to

1051

00:41:13,510 --> 00:41:11,359

know

1052

00:41:15,349 --> 00:41:13,520

seven billion is a lot of anything let

1053

00:41:17,750 --> 00:41:15,359

alone people but that's what our

1054

00:41:20,150 --> 00:41:17,760

population hit in 2011.

1055

00:41:25,589 --> 00:41:20,160

so how do we compare to other species

1056

00:41:29,430 --> 00:41:27,190

let's begin by putting these sorts of

1057

00:41:31,349 --> 00:41:29,440

numbers into perspective how do humans

1058

00:41:32,470 --> 00:41:31,359

rank against other populations in the

1059

00:41:34,870 --> 00:41:32,480

world

1060

00:41:37,349 --> 00:41:34,880

by far and away the most popular species

1061

00:41:40,069 --> 00:41:37,359

are bacteria there are around four

1062

00:41:42,150 --> 00:41:40,079

quadrillion quadrillion of them and this

1063

00:41:44,710 --> 00:41:42,160

easily outnumbered all other animals

1064

00:41:47,349 --> 00:41:44,720

populations combined moving on to larger

1065

00:41:49,510 --> 00:41:47,359

beings there's an estimated 10 billion

1066

00:41:52,069 --> 00:41:49,520

billion ants in the world weighing

1067

00:41:54,710 --> 00:41:52,079

almost 10 times that of humans who

1068

00:41:55,990 --> 00:41:54,720

counted them I have no idea and who

1069

00:41:58,150 --> 00:41:56,000

would have thought there are more than

1070

00:42:00,950 --> 00:41:58,160

20 billion domestic chickens bred for

1071

00:42:02,950 --> 00:42:00,960

meat and eggs

1072

00:42:04,790 --> 00:42:02,960

it's hardly surprising but it is

1073

00:42:06,630 --> 00:42:04,800

interesting that the top 10 mammals

1074

00:42:09,190 --> 00:42:06,640

populations are humans and our

1075

00:42:11,109 --> 00:42:09,200

domesticated friends farming livestock

1076  
00:42:13,349 --> 00:42:11,119  
has seen populations of cattle and sheep

1077  
00:42:15,750 --> 00:42:13,359  
sort over 1 billion each

1078  
00:42:17,990 --> 00:42:15,760  
and pets like cats and dogs are around

1079  
00:42:19,670 --> 00:42:18,000  
500 million each thanks to living

1080  
00:42:22,309 --> 00:42:19,680  
closely with humans

1081  
00:42:23,430 --> 00:42:22,319  
but who is number one well it's hard to

1082  
00:42:25,349 --> 00:42:23,440  
work out

1083  
00:42:27,349 --> 00:42:25,359  
evidence suggests though that humans may

1084  
00:42:29,190 --> 00:42:27,359  
only be third on the list following mice

1085  
00:42:31,349 --> 00:42:29,200  
and rats which are not strictly

1086  
00:42:34,069 --> 00:42:31,359  
domesticated but do like to hang around

1087  
00:42:36,230 --> 00:42:34,079  
humans by comparison most wild mammal

1088  
00:42:38,550 --> 00:42:36,240

populations are falling rapidly due to

1089

00:42:41,910 --> 00:42:38,560

humans moving in on their habitats there

1090

00:42:46,630 --> 00:42:41,920

are just 500 000 elephants 200 000

1091

00:42:48,230 --> 00:42:46,640

chimpanzees 120 000 big cats and 20 000

1092

00:42:50,710 --> 00:42:48,240

polar bears left

1093

00:42:52,790 --> 00:42:50,720

and yes we're directly responsible

1094

00:42:55,750 --> 00:42:52,800

and now four fast facts about global

1095

00:43:00,870 --> 00:42:57,670

china has the biggest population in the

1096

00:43:03,829 --> 00:43:00,880

world with 1.35 billion people closely

1097

00:43:06,390 --> 00:43:03,839

followed by india at 1.21 billion

1098

00:43:08,230 --> 00:43:06,400

together they're home to 37 of the

1099

00:43:10,550 --> 00:43:08,240

world's population the highest

1100

00:43:14,550 --> 00:43:10,560

population growth rate ever recorded was

1101

00:43:17,829 --> 00:43:14,560

in 1963 and the lowest during 2011. it

1102

00:43:20,790 --> 00:43:17,839

took 123 years to grow from 1 to 2

1103

00:43:24,150 --> 00:43:20,800

billion people but it took just 13 years

1104

00:43:26,349 --> 00:43:24,160

to grow from 6 to 7 billion finally the

1105

00:43:30,390 --> 00:43:26,359

current world population is about

1106

00:43:33,109 --> 00:43:30,400

7.19 billion increasing by 2.3 people

1107

00:43:38,150 --> 00:43:33,119

every second the planet is expected to

1108

00:43:42,230 --> 00:43:40,150

that's it for this week in science for

1109

00:43:45,829 --> 00:43:42,240

more information on global population go

1110

00:43:47,910 --> 00:43:45,839

to the rio's website r-i-a-u-s

1111

00:43:50,710 --> 00:43:47,920

dot org dot a-u

1112

00:43:53,270 --> 00:43:50,720

follow us on twitter at rios and like us

1113

00:44:04,550 --> 00:43:53,280

on facebook i'm tanya meyer and we'll

1114

00:44:09,750 --> 00:44:06,630

the skeptic magazine the journal from

1115

00:44:11,910 --> 00:44:09,760

australian skeptics subscribe online to

1116

00:44:16,710 --> 00:44:11,920

the world's second oldest skeptical

1117

00:44:23,270 --> 00:44:19,510

and click the publications link

1118

00:44:24,550 --> 00:44:23,280

you can also find there over 30 years of

1119

00:44:26,069 --> 00:44:24,560

back issues

1120

00:44:28,790 --> 00:44:26,079

free to download

1121

00:44:38,950 --> 00:44:28,800

the skeptic the magazine from australian

1122

00:44:46,230 --> 00:44:41,910

now it's time for dr raichi reports with

1123

00:44:51,030 --> 00:44:48,309

hello listeners and welcome to dr

1124

00:44:53,270 --> 00:44:51,040

ritchie reports well this week i am

1125

00:44:55,510 --> 00:44:53,280

reporting on a news item that announced

1126  
00:44:56,470 --> 00:44:55,520  
the results of a melbourne acupuncture

1127  
00:44:57,910 --> 00:44:56,480  
study

1128  
00:45:00,470 --> 00:44:57,920  
proclaiming in the headline that

1129  
00:45:02,829 --> 00:45:00,480  
acupuncture is as effective as drugs in

1130  
00:45:05,430 --> 00:45:02,839  
treating pain trial

1131  
00:45:07,670 --> 00:45:05,440  
shows so the article begins with an

1132  
00:45:09,910 --> 00:45:07,680  
acupuncture trial in four emergency

1133  
00:45:13,030 --> 00:45:09,920  
departments in melbourne has found it is

1134  
00:45:15,510 --> 00:45:13,040  
just as good as drugs in relieving lower

1135  
00:45:17,190 --> 00:45:15,520  
back pain and that from sprained ankles

1136  
00:45:19,430 --> 00:45:17,200  
and migraines

1137  
00:45:21,829 --> 00:45:19,440  
emergency physicians at the alfred

1138  
00:45:23,270 --> 00:45:21,839

northern cabrini and epworth hospitals

1139

00:45:25,109 --> 00:45:23,280

partnered with the royal melbourne

1140

00:45:27,670 --> 00:45:25,119

institute of technology's school of

1141

00:45:30,150 --> 00:45:27,680

health sciences to see if acupuncture

1142

00:45:32,470 --> 00:45:30,160

could relieve acute pain in hundreds of

1143

00:45:34,710 --> 00:45:32,480

patients presenting to hospital

1144

00:45:37,349 --> 00:45:34,720

with either lower back pain sprained

1145

00:45:40,069 --> 00:45:37,359

ankles or migraines okay sounds good

1146

00:45:42,230 --> 00:45:40,079

right but then there's this

1147

00:45:44,950 --> 00:45:42,240

while data from the study is still being

1148

00:45:46,870 --> 00:45:44,960

analyzed and finalized for publication

1149

00:45:49,430 --> 00:45:46,880

in a medical journal

1150

00:45:51,270 --> 00:45:49,440

one of the researchers dr michael benmir

1151  
00:45:53,510 --> 00:45:51,280  
said it showed acupuncture offered the

1152  
00:45:56,309 --> 00:45:53,520  
same level of pain relief as analgesic

1153  
00:45:58,309 --> 00:45:56,319  
drugs when patients rated their pain one

1154  
00:46:00,309 --> 00:45:58,319  
hour after treatment

1155  
00:46:02,790 --> 00:46:00,319  
whoa whoa

1156  
00:46:04,710 --> 00:46:02,800  
wait a second let's go back there to see

1157  
00:46:07,270 --> 00:46:04,720  
what this says again

1158  
00:46:09,510 --> 00:46:07,280  
did i just read this right while data

1159  
00:46:12,550 --> 00:46:09,520  
from the study is still being analyzed

1160  
00:46:14,630 --> 00:46:12,560  
and finalized for publication

1161  
00:46:17,190 --> 00:46:14,640  
so it's not even been published yet and

1162  
00:46:18,950 --> 00:46:17,200  
the data is still being analyzed and the

1163  
00:46:22,390 --> 00:46:18,960

researchers are going to the media to

1164

00:46:24,069 --> 00:46:22,400

talk about their results what the actual

1165

00:46:25,990 --> 00:46:24,079

why are these researchers apparently

1166

00:46:27,670 --> 00:46:26,000

alerting the media to their findings

1167

00:46:28,870 --> 00:46:27,680

when they haven't even passed peer

1168

00:46:30,470 --> 00:46:28,880

review

1169

00:46:32,630 --> 00:46:30,480

well i have a few ideas on why this

1170

00:46:34,550 --> 00:46:32,640

might be which i'll get to in a minute

1171

00:46:36,710 --> 00:46:34,560

but firstly it's obviously difficult to

1172

00:46:39,589 --> 00:46:36,720

knee impossible to critique the findings

1173

00:46:41,349 --> 00:46:39,599

effectively in lieu of a paper however i

1174

00:46:43,510 --> 00:46:41,359

did find a detailed description

1175

00:46:45,670 --> 00:46:43,520

published on a trial's website which

1176

00:46:48,309 --> 00:46:45,680

outlines the methodology

1177

00:46:50,710 --> 00:46:48,319

and it describes three treatment groups

1178

00:46:53,510 --> 00:46:50,720

one standard pharmaceutical care alone

1179

00:46:56,390 --> 00:46:53,520

and this included a range of analgesics

1180

00:46:57,990 --> 00:46:56,400

including endone panadeine fort voltaron

1181

00:47:01,589 --> 00:46:58,000

and valium

1182

00:47:03,750 --> 00:47:01,599

two acupuncture alone group three a

1183

00:47:06,309 --> 00:47:03,760

combination of acupuncture with standard

1184

00:47:08,150 --> 00:47:06,319

pharmaceutical care combined well the

1185

00:47:10,230 --> 00:47:08,160

trouble with acupuncture is it's hard to

1186

00:47:12,230 --> 00:47:10,240

blind people to the treatment so

1187

00:47:14,390 --> 00:47:12,240

researchers sometimes use what's known

1188

00:47:16,630 --> 00:47:14,400

as sham acupuncture

1189

00:47:18,470 --> 00:47:16,640

this means that needles are still used

1190

00:47:21,589 --> 00:47:18,480

but they're either inserted in the wrong

1191

00:47:23,190 --> 00:47:21,599

place i.e not along the magical meridian

1192

00:47:25,990 --> 00:47:23,200

lines

1193

00:47:28,470 --> 00:47:26,000

or they are not inserted far enough to

1194

00:47:30,550 --> 00:47:28,480

have an apparent effect

1195

00:47:32,790 --> 00:47:30,560

this way the researchers can control

1196

00:47:36,150 --> 00:47:32,800

whether the acupuncture is having a real

1197

00:47:38,790 --> 00:47:36,160

effect or if it's a placebo effect since

1198

00:47:40,470 --> 00:47:38,800

it's not indicated if sham acupuncture

1199

00:47:41,990 --> 00:47:40,480

was used here there's no way to

1200

00:47:45,270 --> 00:47:42,000

determine whether the effect from the

1201  
00:47:47,430 --> 00:47:45,280  
acupuncture was real or placebo

1202  
00:47:49,510 --> 00:47:47,440  
so patients reported they felt as much

1203  
00:47:52,230 --> 00:47:49,520  
pain relief from acupuncture after one

1204  
00:47:53,510 --> 00:47:52,240  
hour as they did on painkillers

1205  
00:47:55,270 --> 00:47:53,520  
well sure

1206  
00:47:57,109 --> 00:47:55,280  
but we can't draw any conclusions from

1207  
00:47:59,589 --> 00:47:57,119  
this without an acupuncture control

1208  
00:48:01,670 --> 00:47:59,599  
group pain as everyone is well aware is

1209  
00:48:04,550 --> 00:48:01,680  
extremely subjective and therefore

1210  
00:48:07,030 --> 00:48:04,560  
highly susceptible to placebo

1211  
00:48:09,270 --> 00:48:07,040  
plus people often feel better after one

1212  
00:48:10,950 --> 00:48:09,280  
hour of treatment anyway

1213  
00:48:12,950 --> 00:48:10,960

it's because they've been in hospital

1214

00:48:15,270 --> 00:48:12,960

and they've been attended to they've

1215

00:48:17,510 --> 00:48:15,280

been looked after they've had a doctor

1216

00:48:18,790 --> 00:48:17,520

take care of them of course they feel

1217

00:48:20,630 --> 00:48:18,800

better

1218

00:48:22,549 --> 00:48:20,640

without effective blinding of these

1219

00:48:25,430 --> 00:48:22,559

treatments there's simply no way to tell

1220

00:48:27,589 --> 00:48:25,440

if this effect is real and in addition

1221

00:48:30,390 --> 00:48:27,599

as listeners are probably well aware the

1222

00:48:32,309 --> 00:48:30,400

placebo effect is a curious beast

1223

00:48:34,710 --> 00:48:32,319

the more invasive a procedure the

1224

00:48:36,710 --> 00:48:34,720

stronger the placebo can be so you can

1225

00:48:38,549 --> 00:48:36,720

imagine having needles stuck in you is

1226

00:48:41,670 --> 00:48:38,559

likely to make you think your pain has

1227

00:48:43,910 --> 00:48:41,680

reduced as much or even more than if you

1228

00:48:45,829 --> 00:48:43,920

took a tiny white aspirin

1229

00:48:47,670 --> 00:48:45,839

another issue with this study being not

1230

00:48:49,270 --> 00:48:47,680

blinded is it may have selected for

1231

00:48:51,510 --> 00:48:49,280

patients who are sympathetic to the

1232

00:48:53,109 --> 00:48:51,520

efficacy of acupuncture

1233

00:48:55,030 --> 00:48:53,119

so if you turn up to the accident and

1234

00:48:57,190 --> 00:48:55,040

emergency department and someone says do

1235

00:48:59,750 --> 00:48:57,200

you want to be in an acupuncture trial

1236

00:49:02,390 --> 00:48:59,760

if you're me you'll say no thank you

1237

00:49:03,670 --> 00:49:02,400

very much please get me some real drugs

1238

00:49:05,589 --> 00:49:03,680

but if you're somebody who is

1239

00:49:07,510 --> 00:49:05,599

sympathetic to acupuncture or believes

1240

00:49:10,710 --> 00:49:07,520

in acupuncture then you're more likely

1241

00:49:12,710 --> 00:49:10,720

to say yes this will then also influence

1242

00:49:15,430 --> 00:49:12,720

the pain perception of these people if

1243

00:49:17,109 --> 00:49:15,440

you believe it then it probably works

1244

00:49:19,510 --> 00:49:17,119

we also must consider the role of

1245

00:49:21,829 --> 00:49:19,520

wanting to please the nice doctor

1246

00:49:23,349 --> 00:49:21,839

patients may report a reduction in pain

1247

00:49:26,549 --> 00:49:23,359

later found to be the equivalent of

1248

00:49:28,470 --> 00:49:26,559

analgesics as reported however this is

1249

00:49:30,150 --> 00:49:28,480

questionable because they have been

1250

00:49:33,109 --> 00:49:30,160

fussed over and may be taken to a

1251

00:49:35,190 --> 00:49:33,119

private room to lie down and relax

1252

00:49:37,750 --> 00:49:35,200

all of these things can introduce

1253

00:49:39,910 --> 00:49:37,760

confounding variables into studies which

1254

00:49:41,990 --> 00:49:39,920

is why controls are critical

1255

00:49:44,309 --> 00:49:42,000

the appropriate controls were simply not

1256

00:49:46,150 --> 00:49:44,319

used here making these findings pretty

1257

00:49:48,309 --> 00:49:46,160

much worthless

1258

00:49:50,150 --> 00:49:48,319

so this is part of the reason why i

1259

00:49:52,150 --> 00:49:50,160

think this study has not been published

1260

00:49:53,910 --> 00:49:52,160

yet all of which leads me back to why

1261

00:49:56,470 --> 00:49:53,920

it's been announced in the press and not

1262

00:49:58,710 --> 00:49:56,480

in the pages of peer review

1263

00:50:01,829 --> 00:49:58,720

i suspect this study might not pass peer

1264

00:50:04,069 --> 00:50:01,839

review without sham controls also odd is

1265

00:50:07,190 --> 00:50:04,079

that the research data australia website

1266

00:50:09,990 --> 00:50:07,200

says the trial began in 2008 and was due

1267

00:50:11,510 --> 00:50:10,000

for completion in 2011.

1268

00:50:13,829 --> 00:50:11,520

so why have the results not been

1269

00:50:15,349 --> 00:50:13,839

published yet is it because they likely

1270

00:50:17,190 --> 00:50:15,359

won't be

1271

00:50:19,270 --> 00:50:17,200

this would be a very big worry for the

1272

00:50:21,109 --> 00:50:19,280

researchers especially given that the

1273

00:50:24,630 --> 00:50:21,119

national health and medical research

1274

00:50:28,710 --> 00:50:24,640

council gave these guys 416

1275

00:50:30,549 --> 00:50:28,720

301 dollars to conduct this trial

1276

00:50:32,549 --> 00:50:30,559

even more of a worry though is the

1277

00:50:34,390 --> 00:50:32,559

researchers apparent disregard for the

1278

00:50:36,309 --> 00:50:34,400

australian code for the responsible

1279

00:50:39,910 --> 00:50:36,319

conduct of research

1280

00:50:42,230 --> 00:50:39,920

section 4.2.1 says discussing research

1281

00:50:43,990 --> 00:50:42,240

findings in the public arena should not

1282

00:50:46,549 --> 00:50:44,000

occur until the findings have been

1283

00:50:48,390 --> 00:50:46,559

tested through peer review in discussing

1284

00:50:50,710 --> 00:50:48,400

the outcomes of a research project

1285

00:50:53,270 --> 00:50:50,720

special care should be taken to explain

1286

00:50:55,270 --> 00:50:53,280

the status of the project for example

1287

00:50:57,109 --> 00:50:55,280

whether it is still in progress or has

1288

00:50:59,670 --> 00:50:57,119

been finalized

1289

00:51:01,430 --> 00:50:59,680

so in this particular article it was

1290

00:51:02,790 --> 00:51:01,440

made clear that these findings have not

1291

00:51:03,910 --> 00:51:02,800

been published and are still being

1292

00:51:06,230 --> 00:51:03,920

analyzed

1293

00:51:08,150 --> 00:51:06,240

however several days later one of the

1294

00:51:10,710 --> 00:51:08,160

lead researchers from this study went on

1295

00:51:13,190 --> 00:51:10,720

radio in new south wales and did not

1296

00:51:14,630 --> 00:51:13,200

make it clear that this study has not

1297

00:51:17,109 --> 00:51:14,640

been published

1298

00:51:18,630 --> 00:51:17,119

i'm all for the systematic investigation

1299

00:51:20,870 --> 00:51:18,640

of complementary and alternative

1300

00:51:22,470 --> 00:51:20,880

medicine including traditional chinese

1301

00:51:24,630 --> 00:51:22,480

medicine but in order to get any

1302

00:51:27,270 --> 00:51:24,640

meaningful results we must do this with

1303

00:51:29,589 --> 00:51:27,280

correctly designed clinical trials

1304

00:51:31,510 --> 00:51:29,599

in this case the horse has bolted people

1305

00:51:33,030 --> 00:51:31,520

will now think that acupuncture works

1306

00:51:35,510 --> 00:51:33,040

just as well for pain relief as

1307

00:51:38,150 --> 00:51:35,520

analgesics and this constitutes bad

1308

00:51:40,470 --> 00:51:38,160

practice and bad science in my opinion

1309

00:51:42,390 --> 00:51:40,480

you can find three blog posts related to

1310

00:51:45,750 --> 00:51:42,400

this piece on the official blog of the

1311

00:51:47,750 --> 00:51:45,760

skeptic zone at [skepticsbook.com](http://skepticsbook.com)

1312

00:51:58,950 --> 00:51:47,760

and until next time this has been dr

1313

00:52:04,069 --> 00:52:01,589

but questions is an award-winning weekly

1314

00:52:06,150 --> 00:52:04,079

science show in french hosted by a bunch

1315

00:52:08,630 --> 00:52:06,160

of crazy enthusiasts

1316

00:52:10,950 --> 00:52:08,640

we are convinced that the greatest ideas

1317

00:52:13,030 --> 00:52:10,960

in science are quite easy to grasp as

1318

00:52:15,589 --> 00:52:13,040

long as they are presented with passion

1319

00:52:18,069 --> 00:52:15,599

using a vocabulary common to all curious

1320

00:52:19,270 --> 00:52:18,079

minds whatever their academic background

1321

00:52:21,270 --> 00:52:19,280

if any

1322

00:52:22,710 --> 00:52:21,280

you don't understand french yet well

1323

00:52:24,309 --> 00:52:22,720

it's never too late

1324

00:52:26,150 --> 00:52:24,319

all our stories have a written

1325

00:52:28,309 --> 00:52:26,160

transcript on the website and people

1326  
00:52:30,950 --> 00:52:28,319  
from all around the world are using our

1327  
00:52:33,589 --> 00:52:30,960  
content to learn malia's language

1328  
00:52:36,190 --> 00:52:33,599  
our topics range from zero to infinity

1329  
00:52:38,069 --> 00:52:36,200  
from evolution to artificial life from

1330  
00:52:39,270 --> 00:52:38,079  
electromagnetism to the science of

1331  
00:52:41,829 --> 00:52:39,280  
introverts

1332  
00:52:45,430 --> 00:52:41,839  
we just love mathematics science

1333  
00:52:47,109 --> 00:52:45,440  
critical thinking so do you want to join

1334  
00:52:48,910 --> 00:52:47,119  
you can subscribe to the podcast for

1335  
00:52:51,670 --> 00:52:48,920  
free from our website

1336  
00:52:54,390 --> 00:52:51,680  
podcastscience.fm that's in one word you

1337  
00:52:57,109 --> 00:52:54,400  
also find us on itunes and soundcloud

1338  
00:53:16,630 --> 00:52:57,119

see you soon hopefully at

1339

00:53:20,549 --> 00:53:18,710

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1340

00:53:23,109 --> 00:53:20,559

zone yes coming up in the next

1341

00:53:25,670 --> 00:53:23,119

weeks i imagine as soon as i can get my

1342

00:53:28,549 --> 00:53:25,680

hands on them reports from iran so give

1343

00:53:31,910 --> 00:53:28,559

interviewing people at the wonderful qed

1344

00:53:34,150 --> 00:53:31,920

convention in manchester in the uk oh i

1345

00:53:36,790 --> 00:53:34,160

hope i hope he had time to talk to dr

1346

00:53:38,710 --> 00:53:36,800

richard wiseman what a fine fellow he is

1347

00:53:40,870 --> 00:53:38,720

what an interesting man but i'm sure

1348

00:53:43,670 --> 00:53:40,880

lots of good interviews are coming our

1349

00:53:45,430 --> 00:53:43,680

way i happen to notice also that uh

1350

00:53:47,670 --> 00:53:45,440

right now in the czech republic in this

1351

00:53:50,549 --> 00:53:47,680

little city of olimotes is the

1352

00:53:52,549 --> 00:53:50,559

afo the uh olimoths

1353

00:53:55,109 --> 00:53:52,559

science film festival which i attended

1354

00:53:57,109 --> 00:53:55,119

last year and if anybody's listening

1355

00:53:59,270 --> 00:53:57,119

who's attending that festival all the

1356

00:54:01,190 --> 00:53:59,280

best it's a it's a wonderful festival to

1357

00:54:02,790 --> 00:54:01,200

to be at and i was so pleased to be

1358

00:54:05,990 --> 00:54:02,800

there last year

1359

00:54:08,069 --> 00:54:06,000

in fact our friend dr bashira saab the

1360

00:54:11,030 --> 00:54:08,079

man who's trying to go to mars he's

1361

00:54:13,750 --> 00:54:11,040

there at the film festival this year hi

1362

00:54:15,349 --> 00:54:13,760

besh hope you're having a great time

1363

00:54:17,829 --> 00:54:15,359

but for now for this week this is

1364

00:54:22,870 --> 00:54:17,839

richard saunders signing off from sydney

1365

00:54:26,150 --> 00:54:24,549

you've been listening to the skeptic

1366

00:54:30,950 --> 00:54:26,160

zone