



COUNCIL OF CLINICAL HYPNOTHERAPISTS
AUSTRALIA



30th January 2006

Att. Dr. ROBERT HALL
Director Public Health & Chief Health Officer
DEPARTMENT of HUMAN SERVICES
120 Spencer Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Re: REVIEW OF THE HEALTH ACT 1958

Dear Doctor Hall,

herewith is our response to the Draft Policy Paper for the Review of the Health Act 1958. As President of the Council of Clinical Hypnotherapists, Australia, I would like to thank you for the opportunity extended to us, by yourself and your department, to review and comment upon the proposed and recommended changes to the Act. This process of review by interested and affected parties, is a fine example of our democratic system in action.

I would like to state that, on the whole, we found the document to be a sincere effort, on the part of those who drafted it, to improve the existing Act and especially to make it more fair in its intent and more efficient in its application. This notwithstanding, we did find Items which we felt deserved comment and some Items which concerned us considerably. These latter Items, for the most part, concern the apparent slackening of control and/or direction over the actions of local government officers and private operators employed by local government, in policing and enforcing the Act. Our concern stems from the many already reported examples of these officers behaving in an overzealous or otherwise inappropriate manner, in carrying out their duties under the Act.

We trust that you will consider our comments as you and your staff prepare the final draft of the Act, for submission to Parliament.

With sincere thanks for this opportunity, I remain yours faithfully,

Alan Stubenrauch

Dip CH, IRIS, FCMA, FAAHS, MCCH

President, Council of Clinical Hypnotherapists, Australia.