



INVESTIGATION REPORT

Investigation into Claims Made in Brochures Produced
by Mr Colin Thompson

6 October 2014

Pursuant to section 61 of the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act* any information or document obtained during an investigation is not admissible in any proceedings before a Court, Tribunal or Board except for the prosecution of a person for an offence under the Act or for proceedings in respect of a registered provider by the relevant Professional Board

1. BACKGROUND TO THE INVESTIGATION

On 9 October 2013 the Minister for Health, the Honourable Robyn Lambley MLA wrote to the Commissioner referring concerns about claims made by Mr Colin Thompson for investigation. The Minister enclosed copies of brochures, provided to her by a health professional, in which Mr Thompson claimed that he could “take away the cause” of 93 “medically incurable ailments”. A copy of the brochure can be found at annexure A.

In making the referral, the Minister indicated that she considered Mr Thompson’s claims to be a “serious risk to our most vulnerable patients”.

2. SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

In accordance with section 20 of the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act* the Commissioner commenced an investigation into the accuracy of the claims made by Mr Thompson; and any risks to service users who may access his services.

In investigating the complaint, the Commissioner considered whether Mr Thompson:–

1. acted unreasonably in relation to the claims made in the brochures and elsewhere, particularly as they relate to claims about cancer;
2. provided clients with a reasonable opportunity and appropriate information to allow them to make informed choices about his services;
3. delivered services with due care and skill.

In addition the Commissioner considered the interaction between the services provided by Mr Thompson and conventional medical services.

3. INVESTIGATION PROCESS

A Senior Investigation/Conciliation Officer from the HCSCC was appointed to investigate the referral. Mr Thompson was advised in writing of the scope of the investigation and issued with a notice to produce relevant information including client records, receipts, financial statements and advertising materials.

In addition to review of documents produced, the investigation process also included:

- an interview and follow up with Mr Thompson;
- statements from NT Chief Medical Officer and other senior clinicians in relation to the claims made;
- enquiries with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and Consumer Affairs NT;
- telephone interviews with five of Mr Thompson's clients;
- consultation with interstate Commissions regarding any similar matters;
- research into unregistered providers, alternative therapies, interaction between conventional medicine and alternative and complementary therapy.

4. MR COLIN THOMPSON - BACKGROUND

Mr Thompson has been seeing clients offering various services including addiction cures and "healing" since 2000. He ran the "Smoke Shop" in Darwin from 2007-2012, and began his work in what he describes as "Mind Communication" through the "Esoteric Mind Specialist" business in 2013.

As stated in his brochures, Mr Thompson has no university degrees or qualifications. The brochure describes him as a "self motivated independent specialist to banishing the cause of most ailments which defies the law of nature and is unexplainable by science".¹

5. BUSINESS - ESOTERIC MIND SPECIALIST

Mr Thompson told the HCSCC that he registered the business name 'Esoteric Mind Specialist' in July 2013. He reports that he is a sole trader, working from his home in Howard Springs. His clients (or "patients" as Mr Thompson describes them) visit him there.

Mr Thompson stated that he does not use a computer for the business but keeps handwritten records relating to his clients in an exercise book. He has a bank account in the name of 'Esoteric Mind Specialist' which clients are able to either pay into by direct debit or

¹ Reference brochure

credit card, although Mr Thompson notes that most clients pay by cash.² Mr Thompson's brochures indicate that he offers a "100% money-back guarantee".

In the role he describes as "Mind Communication" (described in further detail below) Mr Thompson provides three types of services, broadly described as assistance to couples, "healing" of various ailments, and addiction cures. Only the claims relating to healing of ailments are the subject of this investigation.

Mr Thompson has produced brochures covering each of his three areas of service, including the brochure that gave rise to the referral; as well as a 20 page booklet in two parts, "Two Teams: Relationship" and "Healing".

His price list was provided as part of the investigation.

Mr Thompson designed the brochures for the business, had them printed and started distributing them in about August 2013. Mr Thompson stated that he initially posted the brochures to businesses that he found in the phone book. He stated he would choose businesses that he thought would have a certain type of person, with a certain type of mind working there; that is, people he thought would be receptive to his marketing.

Mr Thompson told the HCSCC that he has posted out between 600 – 700 brochures and advertised with the NT News on two occasions. He stated however that he no longer distributes the brochures as his business is now all by word of mouth.³ Mr Thompson initially reported that he stopped providing services in the Northern Territory when notified of this investigation. However it is unclear whether this remains the case.

6. HEALING AND MIND COMMUNICATION

What is "Mind Communication"?

According to his brochures, Mr Thompson himself is a "Mind Communicator" with Mind Communication described as

Nature's own way of going against the law of natures to take away the cause of medically incurable ailments permanently.

In what he calls his "Two Teams" booklet, Mr Thompson explains that he developed the concept of "Mind Communication Healing", which he describes as the ability to communicate with the sub-conscious mind of the "patient". He describes two energies as giving life:

² Interview 24:24

³ Interview 11:18

conscious mind (spirit) and subconscious mind (brain, body organs). According to his materials, unlike medical practitioners who deal with the conscious mind (and according to Mr Thompson's booklet can't actually cure anything or anyone), Mr Thompson also listens to the sub-conscious mind which "knows what is wrong with its body and its mind and also the cause of the symptoms".⁴

In his brochure Mr Thompson explains the application of Mind Communication as follows:

The sub-conscious mind knows what is wrong with it's (sic) body and it's (sic) mind, and also the cause of the problem. So Colin talks with the sub-conscious to take away the cause of the problem. Once that is done the body will heal it's (sic) self naturally, with no remission.

While Mr Thompson initially used massage and other techniques as part of his "healing", it appears that his current practice does not include any physical contact with clients. He stated that

*What I prefer people to do, I prefer people to come to see me the first time, I can tell them what's wrong with them and I can give them a quote on how much it is going to cost to repair them, and we will just talk about their problems and while they're talking I am reading their mind and finding out a lot of information.*⁵

Along with the quote, Mr Thompson provides the client with his brochures and the booklet. While there was some confusion about the timing of the quote, he told the HCSCC that he gives clients these materials so that they can take them away and read them and become comfortable with what he does.⁶ When asked about patient consent, Mr Thompson pointed to this practice as evidence of consent.⁷

Cause of illness and disease

According to Mr Thompson's philosophy, all disease and illness come from our relationships with people – usually relationships with our family. People have either a red mind or a blue mind (Mr Thompson can only work with blue minded people). The red mind will hurt the blue mind and that is the origin of all illness from tummy aches to cancer. The exception to this is infection which Mr Thompson says is from bacteria and so, while he states medicine can cure infection, he cannot.

⁴ Booklet p12

⁵ 15:16 -16:30 of interview

⁶ 16/06/14

⁷ Interview 1:04:40

Taking away the cause and cures

In his “Mind Communication” brochure, Mr Thompson avoids in part a statement that he is offering a “cure” for any of the “medically incurable ailments” listed, stating instead that he will “take away the cause of the problem”. When asked about this distinction in an interview with the HCSCC, Mr Thompson said that even though he does cure people he does not use that term in his brochures as he has previously been told by the NT News that he was not able to do so under “advertising laws”.

When asked about the list of “medically incurable ailments” listed in his brochure, Mr Thompson explains that he developed the list by searching on his computer. When asked in more detail he stated that:

I just typed in “medical ailments or illnesses” and “ailments or diseases” or whatever, I don’t know 3 or 4 different sites I got all those from, and I’m not doctor, I don’t know anything about any of these things all I know is it’s a name and it hurts people. It means nothing to me what it is.⁸

In addition to claiming that he can take away the cause and/or cure existing ailments, Mr Thompson’s booklet reports that he can detect a “curse” or illness before symptoms are felt and before it can be detected by medical tests.⁹

Cancer

When asked specifically about the claims in his brochures relating to cancer (including cervical cancer, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, prostate cancer, testicular cancer), Mr Thompson explained that in his view it is a case of one cure suits all as the cause of cancer is the same as the cause of any other ailment.

When setting out his methodology he stated:

First of all I need to talk to the person just find out what kind of cancer it is and I will be given the yes or no from the eternal life force that’s with me as to whether it can be taken away or not. Almost all cancers have the same cure the same (INAUDIBLE) ailments it is all the same cure so it doesn’t make any difference to me. The cause of the cancer and the cause of the tummy ache is the same.

In his brochure, Mr Thompson explains his views on cancer further, explaining his theory:

So during the operation, the cancer was cut out and discarded... but what about the cause? It wasn’t removed, only the product of the cause was removed...something

⁸ Interview 25:10 mark.

⁹ Booklet p15

intangible caused the virus to grow, and something intangible has been left behind to grow into a cancer virus again. So until this intangible energy is discovered and removed, the cancer will definitely return.

It is this “intangible energy” that Mr Thompson claims to address through his service.

7. CLIENT REPORTS

Mr Thompson provided the HCSCC with a copy of the exercise book with handwritten notes and records relating to client sessions from April 2013 to February 2014. A review of these records show that 41 clients are listed. Four of these were seen in Western Australia where Mr Thompson was staying over the Christmas/New Year period 2013/2014, another four have interstate addresses. Ten do not have any address recorded. Twenty-two have Northern Territory addresses and one record is missing. Some of the patients were seen for addiction problems, some for illness and some both.

Mr Thompson was informed of the HCSCC’s intention to speak to a number of clients about the services he provides. In response to this Mr Thompson stated in a letter to the HCSCC that:

I have cured all my patients that I could possibly cure. I’m sure all will speak highly of my operation, as they are all cured or refunded.

Mr Thompson nominated two clients for interview; a further three were selected randomly for contact.

Of the clients contacted, one had been diagnosed with terminal cancer; one had an enlarged prostate (something he reported that Mr Thompson “guessed”); another had a range of concerns including anxiety, insomnia and high blood pressure. A further client was suffering from a virus that medical practitioners had been unable to diagnose, and a fifth initially spoke to him regarding smoking only.

Four of the clients spoken to described the meetings with Mr Thompson along the same lines – meetings at his house, receiving a quote and reading material, one or two short sessions and payments.

Although none of the clients reported that Mr Thompson told them not to see their regular doctors or seek medical advice following the sessions, in three cases, including the person with cancer, he did tell them that they were cured after their sessions. One woman reported

that Mr Thompson spoke to her about her medications and while he did not tell her to stop taking them, he did tell her that she probably could do so and that she would be fine.

In the case of a man with a slightly enlarged prostate, he reported being able to urinate normally six weeks after his meeting with Mr Thompson. Other clients report that the course of their illness was not significantly altered following their meeting. The client with cancer which Mr Thompson claimed to have cured, was undergoing medical treatment and has recently passed away.

Two clients interviewed reported that during their sessions with him Mr Thompson “predicted” what he told them would be future health problems – heart problems in one case and lung cancer in the other. Neither reported symptoms that they felt were in any way related to such purported diagnosis and both reported being disturbed by the commentary. In one case Mr Thompson later refunded his fee.

One of the clients spoken to reported that she was embarrassed that she had gone to see Mr Thompson but that “we are all gullible at some stage in our life”.

In response to the draft Investigation Report, Mr Thompson commented that he does not accept that a complete investigation was conducted nor accepts that a sufficient level of enquiry was made on which to base any conclusions.

8. CLIENT RECORDS

As stated previously, Mr Thompson does not use a computer but records details of his clients in an exercise book. He advised the investigation that he only has the one exercise book which he keeps in an unlocked drawer at home.

The records provided show each client is given a page and Mr Thompson records their name and contact details, what condition or ailment they have, what relative he believes this has come from, as well as the amount charged and the patient’s bank account details. The notes also record any further sessions or phone calls with the patient.

The records are minimal and would be of little assistance if there was ever any question raised as to what occurred during a session. The records are also not securely kept and could be subject to unauthorised access.

A review of the notes of the clients interviewed during the investigation reveals very little of their story. Three of five are recorded as “cured”. In the case of the person that Mr

Thompson said had lung cancer, the notes stated that this was “given” to him and that he “must go for test. Then we’ll take it away” (presumably the cause).

9. FINANCIAL RECORDS

Mr Thompson produced copies of National Australia Bank statements in the name of Esoteric Mind Specialist as part of the investigation. In answer to the Notice to Produce, he also produced handwritten records purporting to show all monies received since the start of the business.

The bank statements show that deposits totalling \$2,250.00 were made for the period June 2013 to November 2013. Mr Thompson has confirmed that these deposits were all made by clients after receipt of services.

The handwritten records provided by Mr Thompson appear to show he has received \$6,425.00 in cash payment and contrary to the bank statements, show a total of \$3,350 paid by way of direct debit or other electronic transaction.

Mr Thompson offers a money back guarantee and according to his records he has refunded a total of \$750.00 to three patients since commencing this business. It is not clear from the records which services these refunds relate to.

10. INTERACTION WITH MEDICAL PRACTICE

During the interview with the HCSCC, Mr Thompson was asked his view of medical practice and medication, to which he replied

Good, nothing wrong with mainstream medicine. The only thing I’m a bit against is the use of prescription drugs where, that are very evil, very evils and people can get into all sorts of trouble and it kills a lot of people.

In his booklet Mr Thompson goes further in commenting on drugs and side effects, stating that side effects are

your sub-conscious mind saying to you, “I don’t want you to use these drugs on me as they are invasive, and I will hurt you if you continue to do so”.

He comments that doctors tell you that medications are the only way but that “(T)here are many alternative treatments; you just have to start looking”.¹⁰

As to the difference between his service and conventional medicine, he stated that there was no one he couldn't help and that if he couldn't help them then a doctor couldn't help them either. He stated in the booklet that doctors

*can't actually cure anything or anyone. As they don't have a connection to the supernatural world, which is what caused the symptoms.*¹¹

When asked about tests that are conducted he stated that people he is working with do not need tests but that he may recommend to someone to have a test done just so they can see that they have been cured. He stated

Just for their own satisfaction that they have been cured and it is physically known that the ailment has disappeared and I recommend that they do that, most of them don't because they feel better and your intuition tells you your body is fine. You don't need to spend money on doctors when you've got your intuition – it doesn't cost anything.

All of Mr Thompson's clients who were interviewed as part of this investigation were asked about any conversations they had with Mr Thompson about conventional medicine and whether they were discouraged from contact with doctors and other health practitioners. As detailed above, while none of the clients spoken to reported being advised not to see their regular doctors, in three cases they were told they were cured and in one case a client was told that she could stop seeing her doctor and would be fine.

11. VIEWS OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

To assist in assessing the reasonableness of the claims made by Mr Thompson in the course of his work as “Mind Communicator”, the HCSCC sought the views of a number of experienced medical practitioners from the Northern Territory.

In his reply to the draft investigation report Mr Thompson stated that comparison between medicine and the spiritual “is like comparing chalk and cheese”,¹² and that seeking the views

¹⁰ Booklet p11

¹¹ Booklet p12

¹² Page 4 of letter from Mr Thompson responding to draft investigation report.

of medical practitioners is of no use because they deal with the human body whereas Mr Thompson deals with the subconscious mind. The HCSCC initially sought advice from experienced medical practitioners recognising that there was no other avenue for comparison. The HCSCC concludes that Mr Thompson is providing a health service within the meaning of the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act* and so comment from medical practitioners is relevant.

The Chief Medical Officer at the Northern Territory's Department of Health, Professor Dinesh Arya, was asked to comment on the claims contained in the brochures distributed by Mr Thompson and to identify any risks associated with those claims.

In response Professor Arya reported that he was concerned about the assertions made about treatment of health conditions, in particular the claim that Mr Thompson can take away the cause of the listed ailments.

He concluded that he holds

*significant concerns about the impact of Mr Thompson's treatments and the possible outcomes if the actual disease state is undiagnosed and untreated.*¹³

When commenting on the claims and risks, Dr Stephen Brady, Director, Division of Medicine & Physician, Central Australia Health Services, stated that

I think it is extremely unlikely that Mr Thompson can perform these cures.

The damage that he could cause patients is that they may not undergo effective treatments as a result of his claims. This could potentially result in death. Some of the conditions he lists e.g. Testicular cancer have a very high likelihood of cure with traditional medical therapies – and a high likelihood of death without treatment.

In his pamphlet Mr Thompson names a number of psychiatric illness and conditions is the list of ailments that he states he can cure or take away the cause of. These include:

- Anorexia Nervosa
- Anxiety
- Bi-polar
- Depression
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Post-Traumatic Stress
- Phobias
- Psychosis and
- Schizophrenia

The brochure also lists "suicide" as one of the conditions that can be cured.

¹³ Letter dated 23 December 2013 Profession Dinesh Arya CMO.

Asked to comment on these matters from a mental health perspective, Associate Professor Robert Parker, Director of Psychiatry Top End Health Services stated

The “Mind Communication” therapy as described in the pamphlet is not consistent with any evidence based therapies for the above conditions as described in a review of evidence based treatments of psychiatric disorders (such as Gabbard 2007).

In addition, there may be significant risks associated with using the “Mind Communication” therapy for the conditions above instead of evidence based therapies and particularly so for the treatment of schizophrenia/psychosis and depression.

Recent articles have demonstrated the significant risk to others from untreated psychosis (Keers et al 2013) as well as to the patient themselves (Penttila et al 2013, Nielszen et al 2010, Barrett et al 2010, Challis et al 2013). Other studies have shown poor outcomes for patients with untreated depression (Ghio et al 2013, Upthegrove et al 2010) and a higher risk of suicide in patients with untreated depression (Courtet 2010).

In summary, there does not appear to be any base for the benefit of “Mind Communication” to treat the above psychiatric disorders. Further, encouraging patients to use “Mind Communication” rather than evidence based therapies for these disorders and for schizophrenia/psychosis and depression in particular may prove dangerous for the patient and the community.

Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)

The Clinical Oncological Society of Australia (COSA) describes itself as the peak national body representing multidisciplinary health professionals whose work encompasses cancer control and care. COSA has developed a number of publications that deal with the use of complementary and alternative therapies in the treatment of cancer, designed to assist members to respond to the broad range of issues associated with such therapies.

The Position Statement prepared by COSA acknowledges the existence of various forms of complementary and alternative practices which may extend to services purported to be offered by Mr Thompson. One of the key principles promoted by COSA is the need for effective communication by medical practitioners to ensure they are aware of any use of alternative therapies; and the need to discuss with patients the concept of evidence based medicine.

The patient’s right to choose alternative options is clearly acknowledged but COSA highlights that cancer patients are at “increased risk of harm if they delay or stop using

proven conventional medicine in favour of a CAM that has no evidence of efficacy". It puts forward the view that in such cases health professionals should actively discourage patients from using harmful alternatives or delaying potentially curative treatment.

Another resource available is a document produced by the Sense about Science charity in the UK entitled 'I've Got Nothing to Lose by Trying It': a guide to weighing up claims about cures and treatments.

This booklet presents views on reasons unproven therapies may appear to work, including the optimism associated with simply pursuing a new therapy which can make people feel better – presenting a clear contrast with feelings of being down or fed-up that can exacerbate symptoms.

The booklet also notes that having one-to-one sessions with a therapist, can also make people feel more in control and more positive about their situation.

The conclusion presented in the booklet, consistent with the position put forward by COSA, is that despite these potential benefits

the evidence-based approach (in which a treatment is tested in rigorous clinical trials in large numbers of people) is the best way of finding out whether a treatment is having a real effect and whether it is safe.

12. APPLICABLE STANDARDS / ANALYSIS

Health Service

In order to fall within the jurisdiction of the Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner, a person must be providing a service for, or purportedly for, the benefit of the health of a person. This definition is intentionally broad and covers services such as those Mr Thompson claims to provide, regardless of whether there is any actual benefit to clients as a result of the service.

Claims to “take away the cause” & cure

Despite the apparent attempts to heed previous advice that he should not use the term “cure” in his advertising through the use of alternate terms such as “take away the cause”, Mr Thompson is clearly claiming to be able to cure (that is, effectively end) a range of medical conditions. Mr Thompson confirmed this view in his interviews with the HCSCC and in part in his brochures. He makes a distinction in his materials between medical action and his action, which he claims will remove the “intangible energy” and therefore stop diseases

such as cancer from returning, however again, the intent is to sell a service to clients that will *end* their disease.

Through our reviews of the materials presented by Mr Thompson, his emails and other records, our interviews with clients and Mr Thompson himself, the HCSCC has found no evidential basis whatsoever for the claims that Mr Thompson makes about curing medical conditions. It is noted that Mr Thompson claims that the evidence comes direct from his patients, stating that “I’m sure all will speak highly of my operation, as they are all cured or refunded”.

Despite the fact that some of the clients spoken to retained a faith in the services Mr Thompson purports to provide, none have in fact been “cured” by his services. The client mentioned above who consulted Mr Thompson following his cancer diagnosis is held up by Mr Thompson as proof of his powers. There is however no evidence of recovery from the cancer that afflicted him that would support this claim.

In the case of a further client, a reported improvement corresponds with the possible natural progression of the condition, again not presenting any evidence for the client having been “cured”.

It is important to note Mr Thompson’s views on testing in this context referred to earlier in the report. He told the investigation that people that he works with do not need tests, although they may choose to have them done “for their own satisfaction” to know that they have been cured. He stated that “most of them don’t (have tests done) because they feel better and your intuition tells you your body is fine”. He went on to say that you don’t need to spend money on doctors when you’ve got your intuition which doesn’t cost anything. Arguably if testing is not undertaken, the claims to have cured will not be undermined.

In his response to the draft investigation report Mr Thompson took exception to the Commission saying that none of his clients have been “cured” by him. Mr Thompson stated that he does not tell his clients that they are cured, rather that they are healing and therefore will be cured.

List of Ailments

The way in which Mr Thompson presents the claims about services he says he delivers – in particular the claim that all ailments have the same cause - is designed to explain and justify the fact that the list of “medical ailments” he says he can address was arrived at simply through a random internet search. The content of the list is broad and serious however, and designed to attract the widest range of clients possible. Given the seriousness of most of the conditions listed, the list is intended to attract clients who are vulnerable as a result of

their medical conditions and most susceptible to claims for cure. The distinction made between the ailments he claims he can cure, and those he states he is not able to “take away”, is arbitrary and assumed to be an attempt to add credibility to the original list. In response to the draft Investigation Report, Mr Thompson states he knows what he can and can’t cure, and this is the reason both are listed on his brochure.

Interaction with Conventional Medicine

Leaving aside the lack of authenticity in the claims themselves, there are a number of other dangers that arise from the way in which Mr Thompson works, some of which were raised by the medical practitioners who provided reports for the investigation. The primary concern that arises is the possibility that those who consult with Mr Thompson will do so at the expense of conventional medical services. That is, they may rely on Mr Thompson’s actions and the supposed cure rather than seeking further opinions and potential treatment.

Mr Thompson states that he sees nothing wrong with conventional medicine and in his response to the draft Investigation Report reiterates that he does not tell his clients they are cured, does not discourage them from seeking medical attention, and says that he believes in medicine and drugs. It is also noted that none of his clients interviewed for the investigation made specific claim that they were discouraged from accessing mainstream medical care. In spite of this, the content of Mr Thompson’s booklet – provided to all of his clients – has clear bias against conventional medicine, both in terms of cost and efficacy. His views on medical testing, set out above and shared with clients, may influence clients to avoid these procedures.

Mr Thompson’s strong views about prescription medicine are also set out in the material provided to clients. In the context of many of the serious “ailments” set out in Mr Thompson’s brochures, failure to take medication for the reasons set out in his booklet, without medical advice and oversight, could lead to serious deterioration in mental and physical health.

As highlighted by Dr Brady, in the case of testicular cancer for example (an ailment on the list developed by Mr Thompson) the failure to seek timely medical follow up could mean the difference between a full recovery and death.

Predictions of Future Problems

Two of Mr Thompson’s clients interviewed for this investigation reported being disturbed by the claims he made to be able to predict future or previously undiagnosed medical ailments. The general rationale for these predictions is set out in Mr Thompson’s booklet, where he describes the “curse” and his ability to identify it before it can be detected by medical tests.

Unlike the majority of his work which appears to rely on the positive feeling that his promises of a cure engender, these predictions caused serious disquiet in those he spoke to. Again, there is no apparent evidence base for the claims and in this case they have caused unwarranted concern.

Conveniently, as referred to in Mr Thompson's patient notes, he in turn offers a cure for these supposed conditions.

Cancer cures

Special attention must be given to the claims that Mr Thompson makes in relation to curing cancer. The existing Codes for unregistered providers (NSW and SA), and the draft National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers currently under consideration by the Health Ministers, give particular prominence to this concern, explicitly prohibiting claims that someone is "qualified, able or willing" to cure cancer. The reason for highlighting cancer is explained as "the need to provide additional protection for individuals with life threatening illness who may be particularly vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous health care workers" who make such claims.¹⁴

In response to the draft investigation report Mr Thompson stated that between 2000 and 2004 he cured 5 people of cancer, detailing the types of cancers he had cured. He said that there were 17 people in total that had come to him because of cancer but that he hadn't followed up with them all presuming that they were cured.

While Mr Thompson does not agree that any of his clients, including those who have cancer, are vulnerable, this is a convenient and simplistic view. The value of hope and optimism that seeking services from Mr Thompson may well engender is acknowledged, however the fact that there is no evidence whatsoever to support the claims and therefore upon which to base that positivity makes it dangerous.

Informed consent

Mr Thompson claims that in giving his clients all of the information upon which he bases his services, in the form of his booklet and brochures, prior to or during initial consultation, he is making sure that they understand his service and can therefore provide informed consent.

In light of the analysis above however it is clear that full and informed consent is unlikely to be provided to the required standard. The lack of objective, independent evidence in support of his claims; the inaccuracy of the claims he makes about past clients; the absence of discussion about any uncertainty in the service; and the lack of acknowledgement of any

¹⁴ Consultation paper Mar14

vulnerabilities in the clients Mr Thompson sees all add up to a less than frank provision of information that in turn has real potential to render consent invalid in the health care context.

Mr Thompson commented in his reply to the draft investigation report that he has provided clients with a more than reasonable opportunity to make an informed choice. He said by providing them with material to take home and read, by not contacting them again and giving them time to think and compare services, that this is evidence of informed choice,

Mr Thompson also disputes that what he does is not evidence based. In his response Mr Thompson stated that to say he is not a unique story but just one of a range of alternative health practitioners is “an uninformed misjudgement by the Commissioner. What could be more evidential than a cured patient?”¹⁵

Financial exploitation

Mr Thompson has profited from his business as Esoteric Mind Specialist. He has made this money from individuals rendered vulnerable by the particulars of their conditions, and on the basis of false claims. There is no doubt that in light of this, while the principle of “buyer beware” may have some relevance, Mr Thompson is exploiting client’s hopes, fears and vulnerability for his own financial gain.

It is noted in Mr Thompson’s comments that he has changed his methods of payment, that is a client makes no payment until they are completely satisfied that they are totally cured of the illness or disease.

Link to Addiction Claims

The majority of Mr Thompson’s clients come to him for assistance with cigarette addiction. Of the 41 client notes he produced, 17 were for either smoking or smoking and other health problems and one for alcohol addiction and other medical problems. The addiction work is what appears to bring a number of Mr Thompson’s clients to him. Either they have been to him in the past for addiction problems and now return to him with health concerns; or they are coming to him now because of an addiction and health concerns are raised in that context.

While this work is beyond the scope of the investigation, it clearly provides an indirect avenue for advertising the “cures” offered for various ailments.

¹⁵ Page 2 of letter from Mr Thompson – response to draft report.

13. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS & POSSIBLE REFERRALS

The Commissioner finds that in making the claims he has made and in providing what falls within the definition of health services, Mr Thompson has acted unreasonably within the definition of the Act.

Specifically, Mr Thompson has failed to:

- exercise due care and skill in the provision of services by making claims, unsupported by any clinical evidence, that he can cure a range of medical conditions;
- provide clients with a reasonable opportunity to make informed choices about the services he offers as the information provided about the services, while presented as evidence, is in fact without evidentiary basis;
- have any reasonable knowledge of the conditions that he claims to cure.

Mr Thompson has failed to act reasonably as he has provided false information to clients and potential clients that had the potential to mislead them and in turn lead to financial benefits for him.

In addition he has overtly and covertly discouraged clients from seeking medical attention by:

- informing them that they are cured;
- discouraging them from accessing testing to confirm their “intuition” regarding the state of their health;
- claiming that if he cannot cure someone then neither can health practitioners;
- promoting stories of his record of “curing” people that are not supported by evidence.

Through these actions he renders his clients vulnerable as they may fail to seek medical care that may be of benefit to both them and as noted by one practitioner, in the case of mental health conditions, the community.

Mr Thompson says every individual has the right to choose their spiritual belief and while the Commission accepts that people have the right to make individual choices about the services they access, they should not be misled in the way in which Mr Thompson has misled clients, primarily through the use of a variety of false claims. They should instead be in a position to make a fully informed choice about the services they receive.

It is worth noting that this is not a unique story. There have been many stories of people, particularly those with chronic, incurable conditions, seeking cures from a wide range of alternate health practitioners, many of whom like Mr Thompson do not have an evidentiary base to their practice. As with those interviewed for this investigation, people are attracted

to the claims of Mr Thompson and others as they give a sense of optimism and hope that they are unlikely to find through conventional medical channels.

In Mr Thompson's case, he also simply listens to his clients and their concerns.

RECOMMENDATION

Mr Thompson immediately cease all practices and advertising relating to the business known as the "Esoteric Mind Specialist" that in any way suggest he has any power to cure. No further claims of the ability to cure or remove the causes of ailments, lift curses or similar related to medical conditions/ailments should be made in the future.

REFERRAL

The business practices and advertising of Mr Thompson as outlined in this report are referred to Consumer Affairs (NT) for further consideration and action.

As the HCSCC has no power under current legislation to make a binding determination or order in this matter, referrals to other agencies were considered. Discussions were undertaken with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) who advised that the matter was not within their jurisdiction. Advice was sought from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) who advised that they would take no further action on this matter as they had not received a consumer complaint and were unable to determine the potential consumer detriment of Mr Thompson's conduct.

In light of the findings of this investigation that highlight the false statements and potential harm of Mr Thompson's advertising and actions, the matter shall be referred to Consumer Affairs (NT) for consideration of further action.

A copy of this report will also be provided to the Western Australian Health and Disability Services Complaints Office (HaDSCO) for information noting that Mr Thompson has offered his services in Western Australia in the past.

Section 67 of the *Health and Community Services Complaints Act* states:

(1) The Commissioner must not make any comment adverse to a person in a report under this Part unless –

(a) the person has been given a reasonable opportunity to be heard in the matter; and

(b) the person’s explanation (if any) is fairly set out in the report.

In accordance with this requirement under the Act, Mr Thompson was provided with a report to comment on that summarised his involvement with Mind Communication and included information he provided to, and information obtained by the Commission. Mr Thompson was then provided with a copy of the draft investigation report and the opportunity to make comment which he did in a letter to the Commissioner received on 28 August 2014. Mr Thompson’s responses to the body of the report have been incorporated into the relevant section of this final report. Any overall comments and concerns with the investigation’s conclusions and recommendations are detailed below.

In general, Mr Thompson states he does not believe he was given a reasonable opportunity to be heard, and that the favouritism the Commission has shown to conventional medicine “is inexcusable”. Mr Thompson disputes that he provides a health service and that Consumer Affairs has jurisdiction to deal with his business conduct. Specifically, his disagreement with the finding that he has failed to provide clients with a reasonable opportunity to make informed choices is detailed on page 18 of this report. Mr Thompson also disputes the conclusion that he fails to deliver services with due care and skill. In making this statement, Mr Thompson is not using this term as intended in this report, rather stating that he does care for the people who come to see him. The Commission does not disagree with Mr Thompson’s assertion in this regard. The issue is that the service Mr Thompson claims to provide does not have any evidentiary basis and has the potential to cause harm, regardless of the “care” with which it is delivered.



Lisa Coffey

COMMISSIONER

6 October 2014.



His cures are contrary to the law of nature and attributed to a supernatural cause.

The most common psychotic and body ailments cause's that Collin can't take away at this time are:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Autism | Heroin related drugs |
| Bacterial infection | Psychopathic disorders |
| Dementia | Influenza |
| Heart attack | Physical injury |
| Tooth decay | Multiple Sclerosis |
| Heart failure | Tennis elbow |
| Kidney disease | Alzheimers |

Jupiter is the nerve centre of our solar system and supplies planet earth with life.

Colin Thompson

80 Sittella Rd Howard Springs

Enquiries & Appointments
 Home: 08 8983 1892
 Email: coljoys@bigpond.com
 Postal: PO Box 1432
 Howard Springs NT
 Australia 0835

Mind Communication is Nature's own way of going against the law of nature to take away the cause of medically incurable ailments permanently.

Pain is the most commonly misunderstood ailment.



Colin stands by his 100% money-back guarantee for the rest of his life, even though he's had official opposition against it to protect qualified doctors, and to protect people against fraudulent advertising.

Stop Smoking, Drinking & Gambling Instantly.

In Darwin, many people know him as the "Addiction Doctor". This profession requires a direct connection to the sub-conscious mind, as it's the addicted sub-conscious mind that is craving to be soothed. There is no hypnotism involved in this mind change, as he can change your mind for you without saying a word. He now also has a phone service where you can call him and stop **Instantly** with a credit card payment.

www.addictions-cure.com

MIND COMMUNICATION

Is the biggest breakthrough in medical history.

With this method Colin can connect directly to the sub-conscious mind by thoughts, as a thought is created by the sub-conscious.

The human body has two minds, the conscious which is the one that talks your doctor, and the sub-conscious which is the one that talks to Colin by thought.

The sub-conscious mind knows what is wrong with it's body and it's mind, and also the cause of the problem. So Colin talks with the sub-conscious to take away the cause of the problem. Once that is done the body will heal it's self naturally, with no remission.

Some cures will be almost instant, and others will take time to repair the body after years of damage caused by the cause of the ailment.

To cure disease and most body and mind ailments, you must first know the cause. Until the true cause is known, it can't be taken away.

Infection is curable because the cause is known. But there is no medical cure for cancer, as the cause is not known.

What causes body and mind ailments and how are they taken away with Mind Communication?

The answer to these questions is the secret held for centuries as the Holy Grail of medicine that medical science is desperately searching for, and what everybody wants to know. But if everyone knew it, half of the world's population would have to find alternative employment. So this secret must stay with Colin.

This ability is so rare that Colin is the only known person in Australia to possess this unique and amazing gift.

This miraculous healing is Esoteric which means that it is understood by and for special people. If Colin can't help you then he will explain this to you at your first contact with him.

All you need to do is have two meetings with Colin. One to identify the problem and one to take the cause away, enabling your body to cure it's self naturally and permanently with no remission.

Colin has no university degrees or qualifications. He's a self-motivated independent specialist to banishing the cause of most ailments which defies the law of nature and is unexplainable by science.

These are just some of the medically incurable ailments that Colin can take away the cause of.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| All pain | Meningococcal |
| Acne | Menstruation |
| Anorexia nervosa | Measles and mumps |
| Anxiety | Narmonia |
| Anthrax | Nail biting |
| Asthma | Nerve paralysis |
| Arthritis | Obsessive compulsive dis. |
| Back and joint pain | Osteo perosis |
| Bi-polar | Osteo arthritis |
| Bowl malfunctions | Ovarian cyst |
| Blood disorders | Ulcers |
| Bronchitis | Pancreatitis |
| Breast lump or pain | Post-traumatic stress |
| Calluses and corns | Prolapsed disc |
| Cataracts | Phobias |
| Cervical cancer | Prostate cancer |
| Chilblains | Prostate enlargement |
| Chlamydia | Psoriasis |
| Cholesterol | Psychosis |
| Chronic fatigue | Ramsay hunts synd. |
| Crohn disease | Rashes and itches |
| Depression | Reflux |
| Dengue fever | Renal failure |
| Dermatitis | Ross river virus |
| Diabetes | Seizures |
| Dyspraxia | Sinus |
| Ear ache | Sciatica |
| Eczema | Schizophrenia |
| Endometriosis | Sexual dysfunction |
| Gangrene | Scoliosis |
| Genital Herpes | Shingles |
| Gout | Sleep apnea |
| Haemorrhoids | Slip disc |
| Hearing lossSpina Bifida | Spine curvature |
| Hepatitis | Suicide |
| Headaches & migraines | Sleep disorder |
| Hernia | Snoring |
| Hemophilia | Tendinitis |
| High blood pressure | Testicular cancer |
| Hip problems | Thyroid disorder |
| Hodgkin's lymphoma | Thrombosis |
| Huntington disease | Tinea |
| Incontinence | Tinnitus |
| Infertility | Ulcers |
| Intestinal disorders | Urethritis |
| Irritable bowel | Vaginitis |