



March 2018

The Alliance of Natural Health Products (ANHP), is a voluntary association, which has been set up as a result of concerns by stakeholders regarding the General Regulations published under the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 101 of 1965 (Medicines Act). These regulations purport to include complementary medicines (CAMs), traditional medicines (TMs) and health supplements (HS) (collectively referred to as "natural health products") under the regulatory scheme of the Medicines Act.

The ANHP would like to see an appropriate, responsible and fair regulatory scheme governing natural health products in South Africa.

Mission

The mission of the ANHP is to ensure that all South Africans have accessibility to natural health products that are safe and of a high quality, while respecting freedom of choice and philosophical and cultural diversity.

The ANHP aims to be a trusted vehicle for positive change, promoting and advancing natural health products in the paradigm created by the South African Constitution and our country's democratic processes, by questioning and challenging health policy and regulations, and seeking to ensure that these are appropriate, responsible and fair. These should look after the interests of the South African public and the natural health products industry.

ANHP representation

The following stakeholders are represented by the ANHP:

- Consumers
- Practitioners and therapists, including African traditional healers
- Retailers
- Marketers
- Manufacturers, importers and wholesalers

ANHP concerns

The ANHP is concerned with certain aspects of these regulations, including content, time frames and logistical impact as well as viability of implementation of these regulations. A regulatory scheme that attempts to regulate natural health products in essentially the same way that allopathic medicines are regulated is wholly inappropriate and in many instances impossible to apply.

The ANHP is of the view that the regulations are an unlawful exercise of regulatory power, and the effect of these regulations will be to severely curtail or jeopardise consumers' freedom of choice and the availability to the public of certain natural health products.

Other impacts will be loss of jobs, loss of revenue to the entities that currently manufacture, supply and sell natural health products, and loss of tax revenue to the fiscus.

Natural health products have a valuable role to play in all levels of the South African health system, especially in the integration of preventative health care and promoting good health and wellness, supporting the health care system.

The ANHP intends to use its resources for advocacy, promotion, lobbying and litigation in support of its mission.

Alliance of Natural Health Products - South Africa

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