

Thursday, 12 March 2020

Public Statement: Prohibition Order – Mr Ian Pile

I have issued an indefinite [Prohibition Order](#) (PO) against Mr Ian Pile after the conclusion of an investigation into the distribution of capsulated bitter sweet almonds by him and assertions he made about its efficacy in fighting cancer.

Bitter almonds contain prussic acid – a dangerous and sometimes fatal chemical.

Mr Pile offered health services in and around the Mount Gambier area.

The PO prohibits Mr Pile indefinitely from:

- providing health services involving the provision or use of any herbal medicine, herbs or plant matter of any description on a paid, unpaid or any other basis;
- personally or through or in connection with another person or entity, from offering, advertising or otherwise promoting health services involving the provision or use of herbal medicine or herbs or plant matter of any description, on a paid, unpaid or any other basis;
- holding himself out or otherwise promoting himself as a provider of herbal medicine or a provider of other natural remedies;
- holding himself out or otherwise promoting himself as a health service provider involving the use or provision of any herbal medicine, herbs or plant matter of any description on a paid, unpaid or any other basis; and
- providing advice in relation to the provision of health services using herbal medicine, herbs or plant matter.

Based on the evidence before me, Mr Pile was found to have breached the [Code of Conduct](#) for Certain Health Care Workers.

I found him in breach of clause 3(1), clause 3(2)(c), clause 10(1), clause 10(2) and clause 11(1) of the Code and am satisfied Mr Pile poses an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of the public – my primary concern in these matters.

Any member of the public who may have concerns is urged to contact my Office.

Background

The Office of the HCSCC began an investigation into health services offered by Mr Pile following a complaint from the public in late November.

An interim prohibition order commenced on Friday, 20 December 2019 and had effect for a period of 12 weeks.

Bitter almonds are a variety of regular, sweet almonds. Bitter almonds contain traces of prussic acid — also known as hydrocyanic acid — in its raw state. Hydrocyanic acid is a solution of hydrogen cyanide and water. The by-product is an organic version of the well-known poison, cyanide.