

Timeline of changes to NHMRC Homeopathy Review research protocol & process used for drafting evidence statements ('ES framework') (from NHMRC FOI request returns). *For details of protocol changes see main text.

Stage of NHMRC Homeopathy Review	Sample size threshold used?	Quality rating threshold used?	Purpose of evidence statements (ES)	Protocol changed?	Protocol change reported?	NHMRC FOI #
Apr-Aug 2012 1 st contractor (ICAHE/ UniSA) Terminated Aug 2012	No	No	'Describe the evidence'	Yes "Iterative process"	No Review's existence not disclosed	FOI 2014/15 021-04, 05
21 Dec 2012 Protocol "finalised" 2 nd contractor (Optum)	No	No	'Inform community of the evidence, not make conclusions'	N/A	N/A	FOI 2014/15 004-58 & 59
Jan-Mar 2013 Optum evidence assessment completed	No	No		N/A	N/A	FOI 2014/15 007-03
18 Mar 2013 HWC face-to-face meeting	No	No	'To be read by the public, <u>not</u> health professionals'	Yes ES framework	No	FOI 2014/15 007-03
8 Apr 2013 HWC Sub-group teleconference	No	No		Yes ES framework	No	FOI 2015/16 008-01
29 Apr 2013 HWC Sub-group teleconference	No	No		Yes ES framework, GRADE	No	FOI 2015/16 008-02
6 May 2013 HWC Sub-group teleconference	No	No	'Conclusive' statements added	Yes ES framework, adapted GRADE	No	FOI 2015/16 008-03
16 May 2013 HWC Sub-group teleconference	No	No		No	N/A	FOI 2015/16 008-04
24 May 2013 HWC Sub-group teleconference	Yes N = 200 min	No		Yes Sample size thresholds	No	FOI 2015/16 008-05
11-12 Jul 2013 HWC face-to-face meeting (post 1 st ACC peer review)	Yes N = 150 min	No		Yes ES framework, sample size thresholds	No	FOI 2015/16 008-06
Jul/Aug 2013 HWC/ONHMRC - internal communication	Yes	Yes		Yes Quality rating scales	No	No record in HWC minutes
2 Sep 2013 HWC face-to-face meeting (post 2 nd ACC peer review)	Yes	Yes	Advise community 'to support health care decisions'	Yes Purpose of ES	No	FOI 2015/16 008-07
11 Oct 2013 – Optum review completed HWC teleconference	Yes	Yes		N/A	N/A	FOI 2015/16 008-08
Late 2014 - early 2015 Out of session deliberation	Yes	Yes	Advise community <u>and</u> healthcare professionals	Yes Purpose of ES	No	NHMRC 203 rd Council minutes