

Important Points From

"National Working Group on the Regulation of Complementary Therapists to the Minister for Health and Children. Dec 2005" (NWG 2005)

- **Voluntary self-regulation:**

Voluntary self-regulation is a system where the profession itself self governs. Voluntary self regulation, when administered by a single, professional body, is often thought to be enough to protect the client and to organise practitioners. Provided a profession has all the self-regulatory mechanisms in place, it can prove as effective as statutory registration. **REF NWG 2005 doc pg 39**

- **There are two broad approaches to the regulation of professions:**

- Regulation by law or statutory regulation
- Voluntary self-regulation

The general thrust is towards minimising statutory regulation. The trend internationally in complementary therapies is towards a robust system of voluntary self-regulation by one overall body for each therapy. **REF NWG 2005 doc pg 41**

- **The focus of this report (NWG 2005)**

is the regulation of complementary therapists and, as such, does not deal directly with the efficacy of such therapies. **REF NWG doc pg 7**

- **Mary Harney Minister for Health & Children agreed at a meeting with the NWG that**

"Anecdotal evidence would be considered as valid information on the effectiveness of the complementary therapy for category 2 therapies. (Category 2 Therapies are non-intrusive therapies eg Reiki)