





## Is there a way of interacting with the producers of the website?

You should be able to contact a website host (Web Manager) to note any queries or problems found. Email the Web Manager with your feedback or questions and you should expect a prompt reply.

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## SIGNS OF UNRELIABLE INFORMATION

- The site uses only case histories or personal testimonies as proof.
  - The site uses only one study as proof.
  - The site claims that the treatment works for everyone with that condition.
  - The site claims that the treatment works immediately and permanently with no medical intervention required.
  - The site claims to have a cure for a condition.
  - The site promotes self-diagnosis and self-prescription.
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## WHERE DO I START?

### Gateways

There are a number of highly regarded health 'gateway' sites, which contain links to other pages. . These sites are government-hosted, and their content must go through a rigorous assessment and editorial process.

- Healthdirect [www.healthdirect.gov.au](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au)
- Better Health Channel [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)
- Health on the Net Foundation (HON) [www.hon.ch](http://www.hon.ch) has a specialised search engine and directory to locate reliable sources of information

### Search engines

You may also use a generic web search engine, such as Google [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) or Bing [www.bing.com](http://www.bing.com). You just type a few words in the search box, and a list of websites is offered in seconds.

There are ways of using a search engine that save you reading hundreds of pages to find the precise facts you need. In most cases, you can specify .on your search page whether you want to search all of the internet or just local pages. Another way of doing this is to add 'Australia' to the words you type in the search box. To ensure it is the latest information, type in the current year.

It also helps to be specific in your search criteria to reduce the number of pages that come back and to improve the quality of websites found. Pages appearing first on a list of results might not be the most relevant. Organisations can pay to have their web page appear high on results lists. These are usually shown as sponsored links.





