

Mon 10/10/2011

Hello All,

I am a member of the AACMA No. 370 with over 20 years experience in treating people with acupuncture with no compliants and lots of outstanding success. I have had various clinics in Australia, but for the last 7 years have been working on cruise ships as a acupuncturist. My qualifications were investigated when I first applied and they were found to be far in excess of most American acupuncturists. I have treated many VIP's on the various cruise lines that I have worked on. People like the former CEO of Coke a Cola, the US Navy Admiral in charge of all the Navies in the first gulf war, etc. I have testimonials from many happy people who have been extremely pleased with the results of treatments. These include ones from Doctors who are gene rally skeptical of acupuncture.

Now to say that I will not be grandparented because I lack clinical supervised training hours is plainly absurd.

I have kept up all continuing professional education requirements for AACMA with the intention of when I retire from ships, I would be able to start a practice in Australia again as a registered acupucturist.

Now that plan is shattered by your draconian proposals, which also give people very little time to respond. I am writing this from a ship in the Med, the Celebrity Silhouette which is about to relocate to the Caribbean soon. This is a brand new ship, launched July 2011, very high class with 3000 passengers, and I will not be able to do acupuncture in Australia under your proposals.

When they had the grand parenting of Chiropractors they did not throw onto the scrap heap all the chiros who had been treating people for 20 or even 40 years because they did not meet current educational requirements. Don't years of practise count for anything.

The profession of acupuncture has been under attack for many years, this is one of the reasons I decided to work on ships. It is very hard to make a living just doing acupuncture in Australia. You are competing against Doctors who do a 3 day course in what they call medial or western acupuncture, then their patients can get this inferior form of acupuncture for no cost under the medicare system and the Doctor can charge it out as a extended treatment and charge the Australian tax payer, what a rip off.

Then you have Chiropractors and physical therapists who do these 3 day or extremely short courses and offer acupuncture as a service to their clients. They effectively get around all the requirements that properly trained Acupuncturists are required to do. That is 4 years of study and clinical supervision.

They also by pass acupuncture safe guards by saying that they don't do acupuncture, but they do DRY NEEDLING which is acupuncture. A dry needle is a acupuncture needle, the points they use, where all described 1000's of years ago, well before they started calling them trigger points and muscle release points.

What a sham dry needling really is. Statistically it is more dangerous to have acpuncture from a Doctor, a Chiropractor or a Physio. They have actually killed patients. You are trying

to restrict highly trained and experienced Acupuncturists from treating the members of the public, while allowing these other poorly trained and qualified people to do so. This is not in the public interest nor that of the Australian tax payer, who subsidises the Doctors acupuncture treatments and thru the subsidies to students of acupuncture with Austudy find they can not make a living as an acupuncturists.

Please change your grandparenting requirements so that members of AACMA with many years of practice are automatically registered.

Also made it harder for Doctors , Chiro, and Physios to rip off the public with poor quality acupuncture due to their limited hours of acupuncture training.

Please accept and read this submission even though it has been sent after business hours.

Thanks, Russell Silich AACMA No.370