

Response to the Consultation Paper on the Composition of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Accreditation Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation paper concerning the composition of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Accreditation Committee.

Do you agree with the proposed inclusion of at least one educationalist, at least one Chinese medicine academic, at least one Chinese medicine practitioner and at least one biomedical sciences academic?

Response: The committee should be composed of three Chinese medicine academics (this allows for some balance), two Chinese medicine practitioners, one health sciences (biomedical) academic and one community representative.

Do you think there should be additional sub-criteria for the selection of the above persons and if so what they should be?

Response: Yes

The Chinese medicine academics should meet two of three criteria:

- experience as a program director of a Chinese medicine educational program (essential to understand the issues of a Chinese medicine education program);
- have a formal qualification in education or health science education (this addresses the issue of having an educationalist);
- experience as a Chinese medicine academic of at least 7 years duration (this time period is often equated to the time necessary to become an expert in an area of endeavour).

In addition they should be from different educational institutions.

Of the two Chinese medicine practitioners:

- one should be registered in acupuncture and the other in herbal medicine;
- both should have experience of at least seven years as a Chinese medicine practitioner.

The biomedical sciences academic should:

- teach into a Chinese medicine program and;
- have experience as a biomedical science academic of at least 7 years duration.

The community member should:

- have an understanding of health science and;

- be a consumer of Chinese medicine services.

Do you think a Board member should be on the Accreditation Committee?

Response: No the accreditation committee needs to be independent of the CMBA.

Do you think a community representative should be on the Accreditation Committee?

Response: Yes a community perspective is necessary and ensures a consumer perspective.

How many members do you think the Committee should have?

Response: Ideally seven (but a minimum of five) as listed below

- three (minimum of two) Chinese medicine academics;
- two (minimum of one) Chinese medicine practitioners;
- one health sciences (biomedical) academic;
- one community representative.

Associate Professor Chris Zaslowski

Director- College of Traditional Chinese medicine

Associate Head of School- Medical and Molecular Biosciences

Faculty of Science

University of Technology, Sydney