



AUSTRALIAN
INSTITUTE OF
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Friday, 30 September 2011

National Consultation Board

AHPRA

Melbourne 3001

Dear Sir or Madam,

As way of introduction my name is James Anderson, Institute director for the Australian Institute of Applied Science in Stones Corner, Brisbane.

AIAS is owned by Study Group Australia and is one of the Colleges in the Study Group Global Education system.

They consist of in Australia:

- Australian Institute of Applied Science
- Martin Business Colleges
- Embassy English Colleges
- Bellerbys College
- Australian College of Physical Education
- Taylors College

AIAS has been delivering VET sector Education in Brisbane since 1975 starting off in the name of Brisbane School of Massage. Over the years the Institute has expanded to meet the growing demand for Education and we now deliver over several faculties including:

- Natural Medicine (All modalities - Herbal, Nutrition, Naturopathy, Homoeopathy)
- Acupuncture
- All tactile therapies (TCM, Remedial, Kinesiology, Aromatherapy, Reflexology)
- Beauty Therapy
- Hair Dressing
- Sport and Fitness
- Aged Care

We deliver from CII level to Advanced Diploma level Education over the various modalities.

The main focus of this letter is to make you aware of the developing situation amongst the students studying the Advanced Diploma of Acupuncture.



natural
medicine

massage

beauty
therapy

hairdressing

fitness

professional
services

hospitality



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Currently you deal with students who completed the Advanced Diploma prior to 2008 as mentioned in your Consultation paper as possible practitioners in the coming 2012 TCM changes to practitioner status.

However that leaves a lot of students left in Limbo between 2008 and when the change comes into force in 2012.

Currently the AIAS has in excess of 550 students studying at Advanced Diploma in Acupuncture and these proposed changes will affect every one of these students currently studying.

How does the board propose to handle this situation as the unrest in the profession is virtually in panic mode as we have no guidelines for students, or can give them any factual information regarding their status while studying?

It would be prudent for the board to develop a set of up to date guidelines regarding the Grandfathering clause, including students currently studying at Advanced Diploma level education and a cut-off date for this clause. Currently, and since the beginning of 2010 the AIAS has refused to take any enrolments into this course as duty of care to any prospective practitioner. This is against Department of Education Policy on the basis of access and equity. If an RTO (registered training organisation) has a course on its scope of registration then that RTO is expected to deliver that course.

We now find ourselves with a nationally recognised course that we cannot accept enrolments for, as upon graduation the student will not be able to practise. So we have the Department of Education on one side who states that this is a nationally recognised course anywhere in Australia, and on the other side we have the National TCM board stating that you cannot practise at this level.

As can be seen there is still a lot of unanswered questions and I feel it would be in the professions interest to resolve these issues.

I thank you for your time and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Dr James Anderson

Institute director

