

Tue 4/10/2011

As a practitioner with over thirty years of experience I am writing to express my grave concern with the draft registration standards for Chinese Medicine practitioners. The Chinese Medicine industry has evolved in Australia over several decades, pioneered by people such as myself who have pursued their passion for the wisdom and efficacy of the practice of acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine. When I first started, in Adelaide in 1981 on the path to attaining an education there were no formal courses available whatsoever. Nonetheless I determined to follow that path and I have continued to study for thirty years to improve my skills and I can rightfully claim that I am a highly competent and well educated practitioner with a thriving clinical practice and with over three thousands patients on my records, many of whom depend upon me as their primary health care practitioner.

My understanding of the draft registration standards with regard to the grandfathering of practitioners such as myself who do not have qualifications equivalent to current standards is that I shall have to provide de-identified client record notes of twenty clients. Please tell me who is going to read twenty such records (or will it be twenty each for both acupuncture and herbal practice?) for each of the over a thousand estimated practitioners who likewise do not have the correct qualifications? And just exactly who is going to have the insight and clinical experience capable of lucidly assessing the reasoning behind forty thousand case notes and then making a judgement on that basis of exactly who is, or is not, competent to practice a highly sophisticated medicine?

Such a proposition is ludicrous, physically, logically and ethically. I implore you to consider a more streamlined and just system that will allow the solid core of experienced Chinese Medicine practitioners in Australia to continue to practice in order that we can contribute to the welfare and benefit of the Australian public.

At the very least, a much smaller number of more thoroughly elaborated case histories, allowing for a full description of all the presenting signs and symptoms, the practitioner's reasoning and the clinical results would be a much more lucid requirement.

I look forward to your response.

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