

Thu 6/10/2011

The Chairperson and Members of the Committee.

I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself. We are both Acupuncturists who graduated in 1989 from Acupuncture Colleges Australia with a Diploma of Applied Science (Acupuncture). We chose this particular course as it offered the most concise and practical application that was available at that time. We have been in full time practise since then and have a thriving and well respected practise on the Mid North Coast.

We have been members of AACMA since graduating and adhere to all the guidelines set out by the association in respect to Continuing Education and Professional conduct.

It is therefore a major concern to both my husband and myself that the proposed Addendum for the Grandparenting of our profession may not recognise our qualifications under the grandparenting standards, treating us as if we are unqualified practitioners. As we are legitimate practitioners holding bona fide qualifications, we should not be required to prove our competence under the limb covering unqualified practitioners, such as through the submission of patient cards.

We ask that you please take into account the following when considering this matter:

- . Australian-trained practitioners applying for registration under the national scheme should not be put to a higher grandparenting standard than applied under the Victorian scheme;
- . All government/university-accredited qualification at least three years full-time equivalent duration should be included on the list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting, and that this include the past advanced diploma and diploma level programmes;
- . Unaccredited programs that were recognised by AACMA as meeting the requirements for practice at that time should also be included on the list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting, and that this include the past practitioner diploma and unaccredited bachelor programs;
- . The list submitted by the AACMA of Australian Chinese Medicine programmes deemed adequate for grandparenting purposes should be included on the CMBA list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting purposes.

Yours faithfully,

Karen & Bruno Di Nicola