

Name: Jing Ming Dong

9 October 2011

Debra Gillick
Executive Officer
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958, MELBOURNE, VIC 3001

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: COMMENT ON CONSULTATION PAPER -- MANDATORY REGISTRATION STANDARDS FOR CHINESE MEDICINE

My name is Jing Ming Dong, and I write to comment on the Consultation Paper regarding Mandatory Registration Standards for Chinese Medicine.

I am not a Chinese Medicine practitioner, but I am a regular client to my Chinese Doctor who practises in Perth. Recently, I have been advised by him about the abovementioned matter. He seems to be very much worried about these mandatory registration standards. After detailed reading on the released Consultation Paper, I understand his worry.

My Chinese Doctor speaks limited English, but he has excellent knowledge and experience in Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. I have been his regular client for quite some time as I appreciated his experience and skills. Majority of his patients are Chinese speaking people, and he does not need to speak English with them when diagnosing them. Occasionally, he does have some English Speaking patients visiting him; he seems to have no problem in diagnosing these patients despite his limited English. He uses methods such as looking at their tongue, auscultation, and the taking of the pulse to diagnose these patients. When he talk in English, he uses his body language, and there is no problem in communicating with his patients.

He has a lot of regular patients as people trust his skills and experience. As far as I am concerned, English limitation has never been a problem for my Chinese Doctor's medical practice. I can see that he proposed Mandatory Registration Standards may have impact on whether he can continue his practice. This will certainly have significant impact on the local community, particularly his regular patients.

Does the Board recognise the cases like my Chinese Doctor? Why the Board sets high English standards for a Chinese Doctor? My Chinese Doctor has no problem in his practice despite his limited English as I mentioned in the above. The Board should make some English exemptions for practitioners like my Chinese Doctor? Refuse registering him would be a big loss to the community?

I suggest the Board should make some provisions to ensure not to disadvantage practitioners who do not speak good English. The English standards set in the Consultation Paper is way too high, even is considered high by English background persons. The Board should realise that most of those Chinese Medicine practitioners were educated in China and the language was not in English. Setting such high English standards could be accused as discrimination against Chinese Medicine practitioners.

I suggest the board should carefully consider the issues I have raised, and give some consideration on reducing the English standards, and provide some exemptions for practitioners like my Chinese Doctor. And finally, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours faithfully

Jing Ming Dong