

Wed 5/10/2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA) recently informed members of the release of draft national registration standards for Chinese Medical practitioners. I am writing to provide input on the formulation of these standards, particularly the draft grandparenting standard. As a practitioner who qualified in an AACMA approved program 3 years ago, the grandparenting standard does not affect me personally but I am concerned it will require hundreds of my colleagues in established practices who graduated before 2008 to prove competence in the same manner as unqualified practitioners.

I would like to include in my submission the following statements:

- 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 qualifications at least three years full-time equivalent duration should be included on the list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting, and this include the past advanced diploma and diploma level programs.
- 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 programs deemed adequate for grandparenting purposes should be included on the CMBA list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting purposes.

I do not understand what necessitates draft grandparenting standards that equate established practitioners with unqualified ones and subjects established practitioners to higher educational requirements than those in the Victorian registration process. This affects the valuable practitioners who taught me and from whom I wish to continue to learn and develop professionally. I request evidence for the necessity of such requirements be made available to the AACMA and Australian practitioners.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Holden