

Sun 9/10/2011

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to make comment on the draft legislation regarding grandparenting qualifications.

I am an acupuncturist practicing in South Australia. I qualified in SA in 2009 with an Advanced Diploma in TCM. At that time it was the highest qualification that was possible to attain in SA. I have since joined ATMS and have taken out all the appropriate insurances. I have been practicing for 2 years now and have built up my business to the point where I am working 4 days per week and I am booked up in advance until the end of the year. This is a busy practice and my family rely on my income stream to help pay the bills.

At the time I qualified I was aware that National Registration was on the horizon and so I took steps to address this and up-grade my qualifications if possible. In 2010 Endeavour College opened in Adelaide and offered a Bachelor Degree in TCM, my class mates and I approached Endeavour to see if they would recognise our qualifications and offer us an avenue to up-grade to a Bachelor. Almost 2 years of negotiations have resulted in a recognition of our qualifications but still not way to deliver a programme of upgrading. This has become a very difficult situation and unless we want to give up work and go back and do years of full-time study, todote, Endeavour have no way of addressing this issue and providing an adequate up-grading programme.

Under your current proposed legislation myself as well as hundreds of other practitioners who have graduated since 2007 will be forced to quit their beloved profession or stop work altogether and travel interstate and do four years of further study to re-gain our right to practice.

This, for myself and many others around Australia, is totally untenable and I certainly feel unjustly disadvantaged by it.

I don't want to quit my profession and I can't stop work for any length of time to attend further full-time study. I would be happy to do some extra study with lectures, projects and exams (on-line or in person) if it was flexible enough for me to work it into my schedule.

The Victorian Registration Board have a different grandparenting standard that if applied to my situation would allow me and others like me to qualify. It is a much fairer set of standards and the fact that the National standard is different could potentially leave the CMBA open to litigation from a raft of practitioners like myself who find themselves suddenly disadvantaged and with no way to legally practice their profession.

AACMA has proposed that changes be made to the CMBA grandparenting standards as follows:

- **Australian trained practitioners applying for registration under the national scheme should not be put into a higher grandparenting standard than applied under the Victorian Scheme.**
- **This 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.**

I hope this explanation will assist the CMBA to make the appropriate changes to the grandparenting legislation that will make it fair for all practicing acupuncturist in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Elke Langman AdvDipAcu

