

Mon 10/10/2011

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to you with deep concerns about the proposed registration information regarding grandfathering of Chinese Medicine practitioners/ Acupuncturists.

I graduated in 1988 and have been practising since that time. That is 23 years I have been treating people! From what I have read of the current proposal, it would not grandfather me as an Acupuncturist or Chinese Medicine Practitioner. This seems absurd that many of Australia's longest and most experienced practitioners will be forced not to practise. This is definitely not right.

I have lived and practiced in Country NSW all this time, and although it can be difficult (and more costly) attending professional development trainings that are offered in capital cities, I have over these couple of decades. My knowledge and practice of my profession has continually grown over the years through working with clients, personal research and my own development as a person. How many other long term practitioners in this field, who haven't been through recent University degree programs will find themselves in the same situation as myself if the proposed grandfathering goes through?

I implore you to rectify this situation immediately.

I agree with what the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA) have put forward to you regarding grandfathering for clinicians who qualified before 2007/ 2008. That is that:

- 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 includes 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; This is also for patent medicines.
- 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 that this include the past advanced diploma and diploma level programs;

Again, I urge you to review the grandfathering proposal, so as to recognize the hundreds of Chinese Medicine practitioners/ Acupuncturists that have served the Australian community for many years safely.

Yours sincerely