

Sun 9/10/2011

Dear Sir/Madam

As a practicing member of AACMA since 1996 (trained in the U.K.) I am writing to show my support with the AACMA. I do feel that I should not have to provide any evidence to obtain my initial registration as I fulfil the criteria to be a of the AACMA. I was subjected to a very thorough, lengthy interview when I applied for registration in 1996. I do not feel that overseas trained practitioners already members of AACMA should be in any way disadvantaged.

I agree with AACMA and have serious concerns about the draft standards, in particular the grandparenting standard which, in our view, has major shortcomings and creates an unjustifiable burden on legitimate existing practitioners holding bona fide qualifications.

Like the AACMA Board I am extremely disappointed that the CMBA has released a document that, in our view, has significant flaws and unfairness accorded to a significant number of practitioners who received their acupuncture/TCM education in Australia.

I believe that :

- 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;
- 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.

- the dividing line between pre-2008 and post-2007 qualifications be removed
- the focus should be on the identification of a list of qualifications deemed adequate for grandparenting purposes.

- 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;
- 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 believe that overseas-trained practitioners should be expected to be treated in the same way as Australian-trained practitioners

I believe that **existing practitioners from a non-English speaking background should have their English language competence assessed as follows:**

- self-assessment of competence based on a signed statutory declaration
- conduct of the practitioner's Chinese medicine practice primarily in English should be sufficient evidence of English language competence for grandparenting purposes;
- community/academic/professional engagement where the language of communication is English should be sufficient evidence of English language competence for grandparenting purposes;
- where a practitioner has passed a Chinese medicine examination conducted in English should be sufficient evidence of English language competence for grandparenting purposes.
- Where a practitioner conducts his or her practice in a language other than English and is otherwise unable to provide sufficient evidence of English language competence, then conditions may apply.

Yours faithfully

Julia Vail

Member AACMA