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Broad of Chinese Medicine, Australia
AHPRA

Dear Board Members,

SUBMISSION – GRANDPARENTING REGULATION STANDARD: TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS (SEPT 2011)

I wish to make a personal submission to the board in regard to the inequity and unfairness contents in above draft document.

Point [1]:

I disagree with the qualifications standards where a course of study which is consistent with a minimum of Advanced Diploma level in the AQF is considered adequate only if it had been obtained before 2008. It is inconceivable and inequitable to conclude that Advanced Diploma courses which have been run for over 20 years would be of an inferior standard after 2008. However, it is very unfair for this group of people have to be treated to a different standard by the board.

Point [2]:

It is very inconceivable and inequitable to conclude that the requirement of competency during the transition should not be restricted to only the holders of Advanced Diplomas in Chinese Medicine. If public safety is truly the priority, the 5 year recency of practice should be extended to all potential registrants whether they are graduates of Bachelor or advanced Diploma.

The follows are about me. You will understand the reasons of my objection after you finish read.

I was born in 1948 in Beijing, China and a part of a fourth generation line of Traditional Chinese Medicine doctor. My great-grandfather Yin Le-tian (殷乐天); my grandfather and grandmother Yin Pei-zhi (殷培芝) and Gao zi-yu; (高紫瑜) and my father Yin Di-Kang (殷迪康) all worked in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture. They systematically taught me basic theories and diagnosis, configuring herbs and methods of applying acupuncture. I have been strongly influenced by the TCM medical ethics and have been taught these ethics since elementary education. My family suffered a terrible time in Cultural Revolution in China in 1960's. Unfortunately it makes me lost the opportunity to study TCM at University instead of Engineering and Business. Years later, I never forget to extend what my ancestors started and keep the family tradition alive.

From 2006 - 2009, I fully completed the courses and graduated in March for my Advanced Diploma of Traditional Chinese Medicine (91133NSW) at the Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine. I started to practice part-time with no remuneration after my clinic business registered in late 2007. Yin's Clinic of TCM & Acupuncture was grand opening in May 2009 in the Hunter Valley wine and coal mining industries region, Branxton (Post code: NSW 2335). Since then I have accommodated more than 400 patients. In my medical practice I have cured a number of diseases and have won the praise and respect of many of my patients and local residents. I am living and working in the far countryside and I deeply know how the Australia local residents welcome Traditional Chinese Medicine.

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I have realized the importance of continuing improvement and further education. I am currently studying the Bachelor degree in Health Science in Traditional Chinese Medicine at the University of Technology Sydney. My Advanced Diploma in Traditional Chinese Medicine gave me advanced standing in this degree.

I submit to the board that my qualifications are current, through and relevant. My practice is also current and meets all the prerequisites for Local government standards required of all health practitioners; PI insurance; the acceptance of major health funds (NIB, Medibank etc.) for rebates; the acceptance as members of major Chinese medicine professional association (ATMS, FCMA etc.).

I believe that many practitioners, including myself will be greatly disadvantaged or discrimination even totally ruined and their patients of welfare will be disadvantaged as well, if the board does not broaden the perimeters of registration.

Recommendations:

I recommend that the Chinese Medicine Board in this transition period to registered practitioner status, allows holders of Advanced Diploma in Chinese Medicine (Herbal and Acupuncture) up to June 2012 to transit automatically to full registration.

I recommend that if the recency of practice is required in this transition period, it should be imposed on all potential registrants including the holders of Bachelor Degree.

I recommend that no additional burdens, such as entrance exams, practical tests, etc, be inflicted on practitioners with Advanced Diplomas in Chinese Medicine up to June 2012 that would not be equally sought from practitioners holding Bachelor degrees

All Board Members, finally I believe that you will be fair and just finish your mission which the whole TCM practitioners giving you the responsibility and glory.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

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Delivered via email