

Friday 30th September 2011

Re: Draft Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Proposed Registration Standards

To whom it may concern,

I have read the proposed registration standards released by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia and would like to comment on two points:

- English language skills requirement
- The global trend in accepting 'Oriental Medicine' not as 'Chinese Medicine'

I have been practicing as an acupuncturist and dispensing herbal formulas in Australia for over 10 years. The majority of my patients are English-speaking and I have had no difficulty in communicating with my patients. I am concerned with the standard being set quite high, for example the IELTS requirement of 7.0. I believe that this standard is excessive as the day-to-day treatment of patients and the running of my business does not require an English proficiency of 7.0. I have had repeated dealings, both by phone and written missives, with local council authorities, contractors, regulatory board members much like the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia, and suppliers. I have yet to face any problems with regards to communication and feel the need to sit such a difficult exam to continue practicing to be excessive. A review of this standard maybe required as many practitioners within Australia could feel overwhelmed by the need to score a 7.0 (IELTS) or equivalent in the other tests.

Also there is an emerging global trend in which the term 'Traditional Oriental Medicine' is replacing 'Traditional Chinese Medicine'. Acupuncture techniques and herbal formulas from other cultures in East Asia are being acknowledged around the world. This is evident in associations and journals stated as 'Oriental Medicine'. In America, the primary certification required to practice is the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) and this trend is also evident across Europe and the United Kingdom. 'Treasured Mirror of Eastern Medicine(東醫寶鑑)' is a medical textbook written in 1613 by Heo Joon, who is considered one of the great Traditional Korean practitioners. In 2009, his medical textbook was the first acupuncture or oriental herbal formula related textbook to be added into the UNESCO 'Memory of Worlds Register'. This is significant in that UNESCO, as have many other countries, has acknowledged the theories and treatments developed in other East Asian cultures. I think it to be quite short-sighted for the use of 'Chinese' as opposed to the term 'Oriental' in naming its national accreditation board.

Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Bung Wook Yoo
Human Energy Healing Centre
Email: newlifetcm@hotmail.com