

Submission To The Chinese Medicine Registration Board

Regarding the draft Grandparenting registration standard

I wish to make comment in regard to the proposed registration of Chinese Medicine in Australia, in particular on the "Grandparenting Clause". I would like you to consider situations such as my own which may fall outside the guidelines you have for such registration. However that does not necessarily mean we are not professional, responsible, honourable and proficient practitioners.

My situation is that I began training in TCM [traditional Chinese medicine] in 1978 as an apprentice to a Chinese practitioner in Sydney, Dr Tennyson Yiu, Ph.D. I spent over 5 years working in his extremely busy practices, being trained by him in all aspects of TCM including acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapy, Qi Gong and Tai Ji Quan.

At this time he was giving lectures in acupuncture to postgraduates of the Chiropractic College in Ashfield, NSW. I completed this training with the students and continued with further courses Dr Yiu taught. I worked with him every day during this period being fully immersed in the day-to-day practical use of acupuncture and herbal therapy.

In 1982 I attended the 31st International Acupuncture Training Program in Shanghai. This course was World Health Organisation sponsored and was intended for medical practitioners. I was allowed to join this course because of my already extensive background in TCM and because, as the college continually reiterated, it is not necessary to know Western medicine in order to practise Chinese medicine as they are two different things.

Then in 1983 I completed a three-month internship at the Zhejiang Chinese Traditional Medicine Research Institute in Hangzhou, working mainly at the Red Cross Hospital. At the completion of this course I was honoured to be invited to stay on as a personal student of the Director of the Acupuncture Research section of the Institute, Professor Luo Bai-Ceng.

Aside from my acupuncture practice, I also have a casual tutoring role at Newcastle University Department of Health in their Nursing and Midwifery Training Program, introducing the students to complementary therapies and my speciality, Chinese medicine.

I have been an accredited member of the Australian Traditional Medicine Society [ATMS] since 1986 in both acupuncture and

remedial massage. Membership number 0 280. Prior to joining ATMS I was accredited in acupuncture by the Acupuncture Ethics and Standards Organisation having passed an entry exam.

I believe I am a competent, ethical and incredibly skilled practitioner. I regularly attend seminars to update and improve my knowledge and skills; have no criminal history; have always held Professional Indemnity Insurance with no claims made against me; and as mentioned earlier, have been continuously practising acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine in Australia, with short stints in Japan, Nepal and New York, since 1983. This has been and still is my only income source, it is my livelihood.

I hope you will consider people with experience such as myself as being of value to Chinese medicine in Australia, not just those recent graduates who have diplomas often with little or no experience.

I might also add that many people such as myself have done a great deal in promoting and representing the image of traditional Chinese medicine in Australia in those early years. Those of us of integrity and honour have been like missionaries out there preaching the good word for this ancient and exotic-appearing health care regime. If its been alright up until now for us to treat people, and we haven't caused anyone any harm, it would seem reasonable that a grandfather section allowing for our registration should be granted.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Yasukawa,
Chinese Medicine Practitioner
Women's Health Specialist
Certificate of Acupuncture, Shanghai College of TCM 1982
Certificate of Acupuncture, Zhejiang TCM Research Institute, 1983
Certificate of Remedial Massage, NSW College of Natural Therapies, 1978
Diploma of Metaphysical Sciences, Lindlahr College, 1996
I am on the Complementary Medicine Practitioners Association Council's Register as an acupuncturist; and I have Therapeutic Goods Advertising Certificate of Exemption.

Insight Health Australia,
