



AACMA
AUSTRALIAN ACUPUNCTURE
& CHINESE MEDICINE
ASSOCIATION LTD

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INCORPORATING:
AUSTRALIAN ACUPUNCTURE
ASSOCIATION
ACUPUNCTURE ETHICS &
STANDARDS ORGANISATION LTD
ACUPUNCTURE ASSOCIATION
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9 January 2012

Ms Debra Gillick
Executive Officer
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Ms Gillick

Re: Membership of CMBA Accreditation Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission on the *Proposed composition of the Accreditation Committee*.

In considering our response, the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA) Board is mindful of the need to ensure sufficient Chinese medicine expertise on the committee as well as the importance of other expertise to ensure a well-rounded committee.

Do you agree with the inclusion of at least ...?

There should be at least:

- one educationalist
- one bio-medical sciences expert/academic
- two Chinese medicine academics
- two Chinese medicine practitioners
- one community member

Do you think there should in additional sub-criteria ...?

In order to ensure sufficient expertise in the two registrable modalities of acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, the following sub-criteria should apply:

- at least one Chinese medicine academic is an expert in acupuncture;
- at least one Chinese medicine academic is an expert in Chinese herbal medicine;
- at least one Chinese medicine practitioner who primarily practises in acupuncture; and
- at least one Chinese medicine practitioner who primarily practises in Chinese herbal medicine.

As this is a national committee, it is important to ensure that there is a national distribution of committee members. There should, wherever practicable, be at least one Committee member from each of the states where there is an existing higher education program of study in Chinese medicine:

- New South Wales
- Queensland
- South Australia
- Victoria
- Western Australia

To ensure diversity of views and backgrounds and to minimise the impact of potential conflicts of interest, academic experts should be drawn from different higher education bodies and practitioners should not be graduates of the same institute.

Furthermore, there should also be a mix of Chinese medicine committee members who are academics in or graduates of the university and the private education sectors.

Do you think a board member should be on the Accreditation Committee?

The AACMA view is that the committee should be fully independent of the CMBA and that it should NOT contain a Board member. This allows the committee to be and be seen to be operating independently of the CMBA.

If a CMBA board member were present then they should not hold any position such as Chair or Deputy Chair or be the chair or member of a Course Assessment Panel.

Do you think a community representative should be in the Accreditation Committee?

The Accreditation Committee should include a community representative.

Community representatives are important in bringing the consumer perspective to health education. This should be someone with experience in the health sector but not be a member of any other health profession.

How many members do you think the Committee should have?

The Accreditation Committee should be at least five in number but not exceed nine.

Please contact me at the AACMA national office if you wish to discuss or clarify the contents of this submission.

Yours faithfully



Judy James
AACMA CEO