



Executive Officer, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
AHPRA GPO Box 9958 Melbourne VIC 3001

RE: Membership of CMBA Accreditation Committee

Submission from the Endeavour College of Natural Health

Endeavour College of Natural Health (“the College”) is the largest complementary medicine education provider in Australia offering a broad range of degree courses and VET programs in complementary medicine, natural health, fitness and wellbeing. It has consistently maintained high standards in education of complementary medicine practitioners, including Chinese Medicine practitioners. The Acupuncture degree offered by the College is very well regarded professionally and the CMRB (Victoria) has approved several iterations of the College’s Acupuncture course.

The College, as a stakeholder in Chinese Medicine education, wishes to take up the invitation of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (“the Board”) to comment on the Board’s consultation paper on the composition of its Accreditation Committee. More specifically the College wishes to make the Board aware of the following:

• Do you agree with the proposed inclusion of at least one educationalist, at least one Chinese medicine academic, at least one Chinese medicine practitioner and at least one biomedical sciences academic?

The proposed inclusion of at least one educationalist, at least one Chinese medicine academic, at least one Chinese medicine practitioner and at least one biomedical sciences academic seems reasonable and given the strong academic nature of Chinese Medicine courses, their high clinical content and the importance of the Western biomedical sciences in these courses.

The College also proposes that at least another member should be included in the Accreditation Committee, this being an e-Learning expert, given that developing technology is finding increasing applications in tertiary education and there is hardly any course or university without e-Learning options available to its students. Current courses in Chinese Medicine are not particularly e-Learning rich, and this may or may not change. However, e-Learning expertise from the University or private sector equivalent can provide a balanced view about online pedagogy and contribute constructively to the discussion of how advances in technology and e-Learning can positively affect the educational experience of the student.

• Do you think there should be additional sub-criteria for the selection of the above persons and if so what they should be?

In terms of additional sub-criteria for the selection of the above persons, the College believes that it is appropriate for any person serving on the accreditation committee to be suitably experienced, preferably in a complementary medicine setting, and it is also appropriate for these persons to be thoroughly familiar with the non-self-accrediting tertiary sector. The latter is important as many of the Colleges offering Chinese Medicine courses have traditionally been non-self accrediting institutions. Suitable provisions for disclosure of conflict of interest of Committee members, are of course assumed.

**Endeavour College
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• Do you think a Board member should be on the Accreditation Committee?

The College believes that a Board member should be on the Accreditation Committee, ex officio, and for this member to not be eligible for being the elected chair, nor have voting rights. The main purpose for allowing a Board member on the Accreditation Committee is to facilitate communication between the Board and the Accreditation Committee.

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

The College believes that it is not appropriate that a community representative should be on the Accreditation Committee, given that the function of this Committee is a highly technical/clinical and academic one.

• How many members do you think the Committee should have?

The membership of the Accreditation Committee should not be less than eight (8) and not more than twelve (12) members (excluding the ex officio Board member). This allows for some duplication of roles and to anticipate that some members may not be able to attend all meetings.

The College proposes the following membership:

- 1 Board Member (ex officio)
- 2 Educationalists
- 2 Chinese Medicine Academics
- 2 Chinese Medicine clinicians/practitioners
- 2 Biomedical science academics
- 2 e-Learning/Educational Technology experts

The College wholeheartedly supports National Registration of Chinese Medicine practitioners as registration protects the public. The College also believes that there is a place for Professional Associations that are there to protect the practitioners and students.

We should be delighted to contribute further to the discussion on the composition and function of the Accreditation Committee of the Board.

Kind regards,



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