

Sun 9/10/2011

I am writing to you with concerns about the process of registration and Grand-parenting for practicing Acupuncturists.

I attained my qualification of an Advanced Diploma of Health Science - Acupuncture from the Australian College of Natural Medicine (ACNM) in 1997. At this stage it was the highest qualification that I could have attained. I have been practicing and been involved in continuing professional education since this date. At the moment I am completing training in the Toyohari style of Japanese Acupuncture and will continue with further training and education into the future.

My concern is that with my many years of experience and continuing education I will not be perceived as an adequately qualified practitioner, although the many years professional experience is much more important, I believe, than a mere theoretical background in Chinese Medicine.

I received an email recently from AACMA which sets out well my concerns -

- Australian-trained practitioners applying for registration under the national scheme should not be put to a higher grandparenting standard than applied under the Victorian scheme;
- All government/university-accredited qualifications at least three years full-time equivalent duration should be included on the list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting, and that this include the past advanced diploma and diploma level programs;
- Unaccredited programs that were recognised by AACMA as meeting the requirements for practice at that time should also be included on the list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting, and that this include the past practitioner diploma and unaccredited bachelor programs;
- The list submitted by the AACMA of Australian Chinese medicine programs deemed adequate for grandparenting purposes should be included on the CMBA list of courses deemed adequate for grandparenting purposes.

Many of my colleagues have the same concerns about registration as a profession and would like more assurances concerning our qualifications, experience and continuing effectiveness as professional Acupuncturists and Chinese Medicine practitioners working in the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

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