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Submission for Registration of Practitioners

Firstly, I would like to thank the people of the steering committee of ARONAH. Firstly for their efforts to bring about a unified organisation to tackle this problem and secondly for their time and effort in making this happen. I have been working with various people to try and bring about a similar process as you are doing but each time it has been stopped or failed for various reasons. I do understand your plight and frustration trying to get this moving. This I feel falls in line with the apathy of certain associations which is then transferred or in a lot of cases only briefly mentioned to practitioners. I feel the majority of practitioners out there have no idea what is happening nor do they know the consequences of no action to the issue.

I am a Naturopath with my own practice in Moonee Ponds. I have been qualified since 1992 and have been in full time private practice for the last 16 years. The last 10 years have been in Victoria and previous to that in Port Macquarie in New South Wales. I have written various Naturopathic and Homoeopathic courses for various schools, have formed and conducted many practitioner support groups in Victoria and New South Wales, organised a number of seminars with International speakers attendance, have lectured for many organisations like Minnd foundation, Bio-ceuticals as well as many educational institutions and lectured personally organised seminars. I have been involved with a number of clinical trials of new products to the market place such as ENZO professional.

I am not exactly sure what you are after exactly but assume it is more related to formation of board and functioning of the organisation overall.

AIM

To form an organisation that is responsible for establishment of the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists with the goal to achieve the registration of these professions.

OBJECTIVES

To be a unified group, which can communicate to government, regarding registration with a complete, cohesive and knowledgeable approach. This group will represent majority of practitioners in the appropriate modalities. Hence the association will have knowledge and set

standards defined of the modalities of Naturopathy and Herbalism to present and achieve registration through government.

To set a standard of educational requirements, definition of practitioner, definition of consultation, set a code of ethics and set recommendations for the distribution and use of products deemed as practitioner only.

Within this structure and presentation to gain registration it should also be utilized to obtain the return of use of products such as 5HTP, melatonin, Lily of the Valley etc which are no longer to be used in some states. In reality to be able to have access and utilization of products at present available to Queensland and New Zealand practitioners but not nationally. With definition of the modalities etc attainment of these products use age should be allowed.

CRITERIA

I feel that a board should be made up of 7 people. Each person will represent their respective qualification in the following areas. There may be more areas which are required that can be added to this list:-

- 1/ A full time practitioner in each modality that will be represented, i.e. Naturopath and Herbalist. A full time practitioner being defined as: - a person who has qualifications from an institution accredited in their field. The practitioner also will not have further employment outside of this area and has a minimum of 10 years experience in private full time practice.
- 2/ A person with legal knowledge or expertise within the area covered by the association.
- 3/ A person involved in research and development of natural therapies products which is part of their employment
- 4/ A person who can be a representative for the many associations pertaining to the modalities covered by ARONAH. This person should be involved within the industry such as practitioner, researcher etc.
- 5/ A person who can be a representative for associated educational institutions, once again with knowledge within the industry.
- 6/ A person who can be a representative for associated manufacturers of ingestible products.

There may be further people with particular expertise required but this could be discussed further.

There should then be representatives 2 from each state being full time practitioners who can attain information, complaints requirements etc from other interested practitioners. This information can then be passed onto the board.

A registration fee be agreed upon which will cover expenses of the association and also expenses incurred by delegates.

The objectives can then be decided upon by the board with further help or input from state representatives and or submissions from practitioners in writing. This can then be displayed in a registered practitioner section of the website for comment or amendment.

I also feel that all associations be contacted for them to encourage members to become registered with this group stating to them your aims and intentions and how you are not encroaching within their territory and are actually supporting their existence. This may help get a quicker and better response to gain numbers for presentation to Government.

It has also been mentioned by a number manufacturing companies that they are willing to look at conducting up skilling seminars to obtain an even higher level of educational standards which would also further give credibility to the cause. Part of the registration process could be a mandatory completion of these seminars. They could include pathology, diagnosis, triage, drug interactions, etc.

Lastly I would like to offer my help in any area ARONAH may benefit from what I have to offer.

Regards

Gary Hancock