



INVITATION TO SUBMIT ON PROPOSED INDEPENDENT NATUROPATHIC AND HERBALISTS REGISTER

The Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists is in the process of being established and will provide minimum standards of education and practice for naturopathy and herbal medicine. A Steering Committee has been set up to establish the first Board. The Board will develop this independent register which aims to mirror government requirements for the regulation of health practitioners. There will be a public call for nominations for Board positions at a later date (to be advertised on the ARONAH website) and the Board will be chosen by an independent body of eminent Australians from these nominations.

Other health professions in Australia are currently undergoing a national registration process, details of which can be found at the National Health Workforce Taskforce website (<http://www.nhwt.gov.au/natreg.asp>). Naturopaths and herbalists are not part of this process despite a strong recommendation by the seminal review on the issue initiated by the Victorian government (*Lin et al 2005*). The proposed independent register is expected to mirror the national regulation process and afford the public a similar level of protection regarding professional standards of practitioners and complaint handling processes. Currently no fixed standards, policies or procedures have been developed by ARONAH and we wish to seek your input on these issues. Should statutory regulation of naturopaths and herbalists be enacted it is expected the ARONAH register will be subsumed by this body.

We are inviting comments and submissions from all industry stakeholders on the proposed register. Submissions may contain recommendations for the proposed register or Board, registration standards or may highlight stakeholder concerns that need to be addressed in developing the register. The purpose of this process is to facilitate consultation with stakeholders and therefore no formal guidelines will be imposed – submissions of any length, style and on any issue of relevance to the proposed register will be considered.

All submissions will be made publicly available on the proposed register's website www.aronah.org. Further details and background information can also be found on this website.

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

Submissions are to be received in electronic (.rtf, .pdf or .doc) or hard copy form by close of business November 30 2009. All submissions should be addressed to:

Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists
PO Box 157
Lismore, NSW 2480

Email: submissions@aronah.org

All submissions will be treated as documents for the public. It will be assumed that the submitter has authority to use any third party material in the submission and no duty of confidentiality shall be assumed by the Steering Committee or register.