

For decades Naturopathy has suffered because of a lack of credibility with the public and with medical researchers and GP's. A lack of evidence is not the same, as a lack of positive results; we need more research done by creditable people who understand the industry. People from outside have no real compelling reason to do research on our behalf. When registration takes place, as in inevitably will, Naturopathy will move forward as Chiropractic has done and become an integral part of the health system, This will attract more people into Universities and Colleges to study the profession, and researchers will emerge from this in greater numbers, proving the efficacy and cost effectiveness of Naturopathy.

Registration will give a much greater degree of safety for the public that currently struggles to identify quality practitioners from dangerous shonks. The industry is self regulated and this obviously does not work as the media frequently highlights whenever some-one posing as a Naturopath gives advice that leads to a fatal outcome, as unfolded in the courts in 2007. There is nothing in place to stop anyone hanging up a shingle and advertising themselves as a Naturopath or Herbalist.

There is no safety for the public when poorly trained practitioners are unleashed on an unsuspecting public. Entry point for the profession should be a four-year degree (Bachelor) from a College or University accredited through the Office of Higher Education, to guarantee patient safety.

Associations seem reluctant to move in the direction of registration and one association does not even push hard for Bachelor Degrees, and actively campaigns against registration.

Most of the people I talk to desperately want registration for practitioners so we can take our rightful place in the health system. There are more Naturopaths than Chiropractors and our numbers are increasing at a faster rate, as are our patient numbers so why are we still unregistered.

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