



# Annual Report

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2010-2011

First annual report of the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONAH), issued by authority of the ARONAH Board

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## Chair's Report - 2010/11



The need for national uniform standards of education and practice in the professions of naturopathy and western herbal medicine, as well as a transparent complaints mechanism for the public has been strongly and consistently recommended by governmental reports. Despite this, the professions have remained largely unregulated with a multiplicity of standards of education, practice and complaints mechanisms. It was in this context that the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONAH) Steering Committee was formed during a naturopathic futures workshop at Southern Cross University. The Steering Committee met regularly throughout 2009 and 2010 to establish the first independent national board for naturopaths and herbalists, based on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme legislation, to begin the process of developing national uniform standards for the professions of naturopathy and Western herbal medicine. The Steering Committee made a national call for applications for positions on this new board, and board members were appointed by an independent Selection Committee of eminent Australians, not connected with the professions of naturopathy or western herbal medicine. The board formally began work in November 2010.

The initial implementation phase has required significant input from the board members, our administrator and legal advisors to establish governance procedures and policies that will ensure sound and fair processes for the successful running of the register. This foundational work has been an enormous and innovative undertaking as we are the first, and possibly only, practitioner regulatory group to base our constitution on a combination of both company law and the national registration and accreditation scheme legislation. Whilst this has at times been a difficult task, this ensures ARONAH's independence and Our Constitution and By-Laws will be made available on the ARONAH website.

Consultation with all stakeholders is a driving strategy for ARONAH, as well as a constitutional requirement. ARONAH's first major action for 2011 was conducting information and consultation sessions in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Gold Coast, Hobart, Lismore, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. These events were conducted to provide public input on standards and requirements for the professions of naturopathy and Western herbal medicine. Much valuable information was gathered at these sessions outlining key concerns and issues of the participants regarding minimum educational standards, practice standards and other industry specific issues, which is now being used by the ARONAH Standards Committees in the development of practice and education standards for ARONAH. The Adelaide session was recorded on video and made available to stakeholders across Australia through Youtube. Some information content of these sessions is available on the National Consultations page on the ARONAH website.

There have been two calls for submissions in consultation with stakeholders to provide feedback on:

- 1) The establishment of a registration body for naturopaths and Western herbal medicine practitioners, and;

- 2) On training, education and practice standards for naturopaths and Western herbal medicine practitioners. Further consultations will be conducted to develop appropriate practice and education standards, and general submissions are welcome at any time. All submissions are made available on the Consultations section of the ARONAH website.

This year ARONAH also lodged a detailed submission with the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council regarding Regulatory Options for Unregistered Health Practitioners, available at <http://www.ahmac.gov.au/site/home.aspx> under Submissions, the ARONAH submission is number 144.

The Standards Committees for practice and education standards in the professions of naturopathy and Western herbal medicine were also been appointed this year, after an extensive application process, and have busily commenced their work developing standards for membership, registration and accreditation, based on consultation and benchmarking against other registered professions, previous recommendations and international standards.

ARONAH has also recently published bound copies of the Lin report which will be sent to all Australian health ministers, to discuss and clarify the future of naturopathic and Western herbal medicine regulation in Australia. Our board and administrator have also been busy liaising with government and industry representatives on a number of issues surrounding the professions of naturopathy and Western herbal medicine.

Finally, I would like to thank the board members and administrator for their support and patience in our inaugural year. The task of establishing a register is enormous and the voluntary nature of this work requires a significant amount of dedication and generosity of spirit. Although appearing quite at the coalface, the enormous foundational work is important and has set a solid foundation for the development of a sustainable and fair professional register that will promote higher standards and ensure public protection when patients exercise their choice in seeking the services of naturopaths and herbalists.

We are also grateful to the generous donors who have provided seed funding and infrastructure support to ARONAH as without their support, we would not exist.

The board looks forward to a fully operational register in 2013.

*Angela Deolan*

Inaugural ARONAH Chair, NSW Practitioner Member, Regional Australian representative  
2010/11

## Values, Vision and Mission of the Board

Values
Transparency
Accountability
Efficiency
Efficacy
Fairness

Vision	Mission
<p>*promoting the safest and highest quality of professional practice.</p> <p>* is an informative, user friendly and responsive body for promoting public health and safety, which engenders the confidence of the public, the profession, government and industry.</p> <p>*advocates appropriate regulatory reform for naturopathy and western herbal medicine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote continuous improvement of professional practice, through education, policy development and outcome evaluation</li> <li>• To ensure that the broad policy frameworks are aligned to enable the achievement of good professional practice and the protection of public health and safety</li> <li>• To be actively engaged with the profession, public and government through communication, information exchange and dialogue</li> <li>• To assure Board integrity through sound decision-making and effective processes</li> </ul>

## Management and Structure

To ensure independence, a Selection Committee of eminent Australians, with no links to the health professions, was established to assess individual nominations and expressions of interests for Board positions. The board of directors and inaugural chair was then appointed in 2010.

### Selection Panel Members:

**Ms Margot Cairnes:** CEO of Zaffyre International, a management consulting firm that has worked extensively with Fortune 500 and multinational corporations and was a business representative at the 2020 Summit. She is author of five books and over 300 articles on executive management.

**Mr Dennis Goldner:** Chairman of the Deloitte Foundation and former partner of Deloitte's government services practice. He has extensive governance experience, with director roles in Regional Arts Victoria, the Royal Children's Hospital, Oxfam Australia and the State Library of Victoria.

**Dr Nikos Thomacos:** A senior public health academic at the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. He has experience in the health and human services sector including a director of HomeGround, a service addressing homelessness in Melbourne.

The ARONAH Board was selected in accordance with the process outlined by the *National Registration and Accreditation Scheme*.

Under this scheme the Board must compose of:

- One practitioner from each of the larger jurisdictions (New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia), one of which must be from a regional area.
- One practitioner from one of the smaller jurisdictions (Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory or Tasmania)
- Three community members (members who have not been practicing naturopaths or herbalists)

ARONAH incorporated on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2010. The first ARONAH Board meeting was held in person in Brisbane on November 21, 2010 at the University of Queensland, Herston Campus. Executive position nominations were then called for and voted on at that meeting.

## The Board

### Chair

**Angela Doolan** (also NSW practitioner and regional Australia representative)

### Practitioner Members

Naturopath and Western herbalist, past secretary of the ARONAH steering committee.

#### **Ms Nirala Jacobi (Qld practitioner representative and Secretary)**

Bastyr (US) trained and licensed naturopathic physician, mentor, and lecturer.

#### **Ms Liza Oates (Vic) replaced Dr Diana Van Die (resigned due to other commitments)**

Liza is a naturopath, educator, writer, academic, researcher and broadcaster.

#### **Dr Jason Hawrelak – (ACT, Northern Territory and Tasmania practitioner representative)**

Naturopath and Western herbalist at Gould’s Naturopathica, Hobart Tasmania, academic, lecturer, consultant, researcher.

#### **Ms Debra Salleh – (South Australia practitioner representative)**

Naturopath, nurse, lecturer, past secretary of the Australian Naturopathic Practitioners Association.

#### **Ms Marion Volk – (Western Australia practitioner representative)**

Naturopath, lecturer, recent program manager Endeavour College of Natural Health, Perth.

### Community Members

#### **Ms Kate Johnstone (also Treasurer, Qld) replaced Assoc Prof Jon Adams (resigned due to other commitments)**

CEO of Embrace Holistic Services and holds a BA in International Relations (Politics).

#### **Dr Airdre Grant (NSW)**

Academic in Teaching and Learning at Southern Cross University, researcher Nat Med Research Centre at Southern Cross University, former Director of Studies Nature Care College of Natural Therapies, Sydney.

#### **Ms Michelle Rosenthal (Qld)**

Pharmacist, Branch Director of the Qld Pharmaceutical Society.

## **Acting Administrator**

### **Mr Jon Wardle (Qld)**

Naturopath, academic and lecturer at the School of Population Health, University of Queensland, author, lecturer. Jon will be assuming this role until a permanent administrator can be appointed.

At the time of the board appointments, the Selection panel also specifically recommended the following persons for future roles in ARONAH. Resignations were replaced with these recommended members, in accordance with eligibility, with the following persons also recommended.

*Ms Vicki Mortimer (NSW)*

*Ms Michelle Boyd (Qld)*

*Ms Hannah Richmond (ACT)*

At the first meeting it was determined that the Board would meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

Board meetings were held via teleconference on six more occasions in the financial year ending June 30, 2011.

- 8 December 2010
- 19 January 2011
- 9 February 2011
- 9 March 2011
- 13 April 2011
- 15 June 2011

### **Director and officer attendance:**

**Practitioner NSW, Chair:** Angela Doolan 7/7

**Practitioner ACT/NT/Tas:** Jason Hawrelak 6/7

**Practitioner Qld:** Nirala Jacobi 6/7

**Practitioner SA:** Debra Salleh 6/7

**Practitioner WA:** Marion Volk 4/7

**Practitioner Vic:** Diana Van Die 3/7; Resigned replaced by Liza Oates 2/7

**Community:** Jon Adams 0/7; Resigned replaced Kate Johnstone 1/7

**Community:** Airdre Grant 5/7

**Community:** Michelle Rosenthal 1/7

**Administrator:** Jon Wardle 5/7

## **Standards Committees**

Currently two committees have been appointed to facilitate the development of education and practice standards for ARONAH and have been given their terms of reference, which can be found online.

### **Educational Standards Committee**

Jane Daley (Chair)(NSW)  
Michelle Boyd (Vice-Chair)(Qld)  
Ayesha Amos (Vic)  
Tessa Finney-Brown (NT)  
Dr Tini Gruner (NSW)  
Dr Tom Harris (Qld)  
Rebecca Hughes (Vic)  
John Miller-Crispe (NSW)  
Professor Stephen Myers (NSW)  
Anita Peirantozzi (Qld)  
Andre Semens (Vic)  
Dawn Whitten (Tas)  
Louise Zylan (Vic)

### **Practice Standards Committee**

Dr Christine Houghton (Chair)  
Yulia Onsman (Vice-Chair) (Tas)  
Dr Barry Draper (Vic)  
Chinthani Gallaga (NSW)  
Judy Jacka (Vic)  
Randa Karson (Qld)  
Vicki Mortimer (NSW)  
Jane Nicholson (SA)  
Robert Provino (NSW)  
Amie Steel (Qld)  
Hannah Richmond (ACT)

## Strategic Plan 2010-2013

### Key areas

The strategic plan consists of three key areas.

1. **Framework:** the governing framework that sets direction and guides decision making and achievement of objectives
2. **Management & Structure:** developing an organizational structure that enables the objectives to be achieved while reflecting our values of transparency, accountability and independence
3. **Community Engagement:** Developing processes for engaging with key stakeholders, building awareness of ARONAH's agenda and generating

Financial Year	2011-2012	2012-2013	
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membership interest

#### Key

	Milestone Achieved
	Working towards Milestone
	Milestone Overdue

<b>Financial Quarter</b>	<b>AUG-OCT</b>	<b>NOV-JAN</b>	<b>FEB-APR</b>	<b>MAY-JULY</b>	<b>AUG-OCT</b>	<b>NOV-JAN</b>	<b>FEB-APR</b>	<b>MAY-JULY</b>	<b>AUG-OCT</b>
<b>FRAMEWORK</b>									
Develop constitution and By Laws	X								
Ratify constitution and By Laws		X							
Develop terms of reference for educational standards and accreditation guidelines for naturopathic and herbal medicine education	X								
Ratify educational standards and accreditation guidelines for naturopathic and herbal medicine education				X					
Develop terms of reference for practice standards, guidelines and policies for naturopathy and herbal medicine	X								
Ratify practice standards, guidelines and policies for naturopathy and herbal medicine				X					
Admit members to the register					X				

<b>Financial Year</b>	2011-2012				2012-2013				2013
<b>Financial Quarter</b>	AUG-OCT	NOV-JAN	FEB-APR	MAY-JULY	AUG-OCT	NOV-JAN	FEB-APR	MAY-JULY	AUG-OCT
<b>MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURE</b>									
Appoint subcommittees to exercise board functions (including list members)	X								
Subcommittees to develop transitional grandparenting arrangements for naturopathy and herbal medicine				X					
Subcommittees to develop educational standards and accreditation guidelines for naturopathic and herbal medicine education				X					
Subcommittees to develop practice standards for naturopathy and herbal medicine				X					
Establish a database for members				X					
ARONAH to become an RPO					X				
Formulate ongoing financial plan		X							

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>				<b>2012-2013</b>				
<b>Financial Quarter</b>	AUG-OCT	NOV-JAN	FEB-APR	MAY-JULY	AUG-OCT	NOV-JAN	FEB-APR	MAY-JULY	AUG-OCT
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>									
Develop a stakeholder management plan		X							
Develop a formal complaints referral and communication process				X					
Develop a marketing plan		X							
Develop Consultation Procedures		X							
Develop advocacy targets to promote improved standards in Naturopathy and Western Herbal Medicine			X						
Prepare submission for National registration process.		X							

## **Financials**

Financials and auditing are currently being processed and will be added as soon as completed.

