



CMA Federal Administration Office

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To the Board of the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists.

Dear ARONAH Board Members,

We write to you on behalf of the Federal Executive and members of the Complementary Medicine Association, the CMA, in response to your communication late in 2010, in which you sought input from the profession on the ...

“Development of Practice and Registration Standards for Naturopathy and Western Herbal Medicine practitioners, and Accreditation, Education and Training Standards of Naturopathic and Western Herbal Medicine courses.”

We would like to begin by congratulating you on achieving to this quite advanced point, a goal which has been the very foundation for the existence of our association since its inauguration in the early eighties. The CMA has made numerous submissions to various state governments over the past twenty years or so, seeking peer group registration for our profession of Naturopathy. We have also seen several unsuccessful attempts by other groups or parties, seeking the same goal. Whilst some of these other attempts have been sincere and legitimate, several have been sadly questionable in their underlying agendas and ethics. For this reason, the CMA, having at first been actively supportive of some of the earlier efforts towards registration, withdrew and embraced a wait and see attitude towards other parties' campaigns for registration, whilst continuing our own work towards that most important outcome.

It is indeed refreshing to find that at last, someone has things well under way. Hindsight could now make us wish we had come on board earlier with ARONAH, however once again we adopted a wait and see attitude. Now we respectfully and enthusiastically submit our request to be actively involved.

ABOUT THE CMA

The COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE ASSOCIATION Inc. (CMA)

A nationally incorporated professional association for Naturopaths only.

Formed well over 20 years ago to represent the profession of Naturopathy and its practitioners in Australia, the CMA has for many years been respected within the profession as a significant, highly ethical and highly professional organisation. The CMA has been pro-active in the setting and maintenance of the highest standards of Naturopathic qualification, together with equally high standards of ethical and professional conduct from our members, in the climate of self regulation.

The CMA is registered with the ATO as an Association of Health Care Professionals, thus granting CMA practitioners GST exemption on all consultations. This is based solely on their Full Membership of the CMA. The TGA and WorkCover also accept CMA members on exactly the same basis, as indeed do most of the major Health Funds throughout Australia.

The CMA has earned this status in several very important ways. Firstly, we are an association solely for professional Naturopaths. We are experts on our own profession. We have relentlessly required the maintenance of the highest standards of professional qualification and ethical practice from our members. From the outset, we have had in place a system for dealing with complaints, unethical, inappropriate or negligent practice and we have always and continue to, police these matters diligently and effectively. We have required that our practicing members hold Senior First Aid Certificates and maintain Professional Indemnity Insurance and we have required this latter from the outset. We require evidence annually of a substantial minimum quota of Continued Professional Education (CPE) from our members.

Our association is actively supportive of student and novice practitioners, offering mentoring and advice along with indirect financial support in their first year of professional practice in the form of free membership for that year. We are currently looking into funding for the establishment of scholarships in Naturopathic studies.

The CMA was instrumental in formulating and writing the original criteria under which Australian health funds began accepting Naturopaths as health care providers. More recently, the CMA were the consultants to one of the largest national health funds and our input was fundamental to the approval of the agreement under which that major fund now accepts Naturopaths as health care providers.

HOW THE CMA CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ARONAH

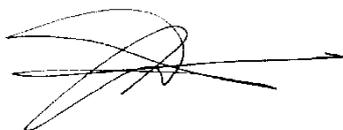
Given our substantial expertise and experience in these matters, together with the long history of acceptance of the CMA by government departments, statutory bodies, and private organisations, including most major health funds, we feel we are eminently qualified to contribute towards the establishment of suitable minimum standards of ethical practice and appropriate educational standards and content for our profession.

We have in our ranks, senior members who are experienced in the drafting of constitutions, codes of ethics and standards of practice, complemented by senior members with qualification, experience and expertise in professional education.

We are happy to nominate one or more of our senior members to, upon acceptance by yourselves, take part in this important work. We are currently in the process of selecting those members and they will shortly submit their CVs and applications for any of the roles available. If it is convenient for you, we would appreciate an outline of the specific roles for which you are seeking applicants and an indication of the time commitment expected, especially in terms of the frequency of meetings. We have successfully held national executive meetings by phone hook-up for years now and have found that this method is simple, convenient and very economical. Are you proposing such a system?

In closing, we would like to reiterate our congratulations for your achievements thus far and we look forward to your response and an ongoing relationship of mutual respect, cooperation and success.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan Stubenrauch', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Stubenrauch
Federal President, CMA

On behalf of the CMA Federal Executive and members.