



# NSW SCHOOL OF NATURAL MEDICINE

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24th November 2010

ARONAH Steering Committee  
C/- Angela Doolan  
2/70 Main St  
Alstonville NSW 2477

Thank you for your circular letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 which was received by this School on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

Possibly you can clarify some issues for us.

Firstly, why is the register only for Naturopaths & Herbalists? This School teaches Advanced Diploma courses in Naturopathy, Homoeopathy, Nutritional Medicine, Herbal Medicine & Diploma courses in Remedial Massage, Reflexology & Aromatherapy. We are sure you would agree these are all very useful modalities, the practitioners of which provide valuable services to the Australian public. Why aren't the practitioners of all these modalities entitled to be on the ARONAH register.

One of your stated aims is to protect the public. Surely, by limiting the register only to naturopaths & herbalists you are only providing very limited protection to the public.

Secondly, one of the main reasons advanced for the creation of ARONAH is to get agreement on minimum education standards. Do the government health training packages, which the whole natural medicine profession had input into developing, not provide such minimum standards?

We should also say, we are mindful that the competency-based training packages, which do not have notional hour requirements, have definite short comings & have brought about a general decline in the standard of graduates. Despite this, is it not better to improve the existing system rather than develop completely new standards?

Regarding the make-up of the Board of ARONAH as shown on your website, it is very heavy with members working in academia. We would suggest to you that based on the poor success rate of university trained naturopaths in professional practice that academics are not the best people to be setting standards of training for professional practitioners of natural medicine.

We look forward to your response.

Yours truly

Kevin Montgomery  
Principal

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