



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## The Advertiser

In response to: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/herbal-kidney-failure-tracked/story-e6frea6u-1226190604569>

The article 'Herbal cures linked to cancer' (10.11.11) failed to source comments from qualified Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) professionals to provide a balanced view. It should be noted that manufactured Chinese herbal medicine products with herbs containing the substance aristolochic acid (the substance mentioned in this article) are illegal in Australia. Manufactured Chinese herbal medicine products imported into or sold in Australia are regulated by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA) cautions against self-medication of herbal remedies and recommends that the public consult practitioners who are qualified. AACMA reassures the many people who are receiving Chinese herbal medicine treatments that it is safe and effective when prescribed and dispensed by a qualified Chinese medicine practitioner. Herbs purchased over the internet from overseas sources may not have passed the same controls required in Australia and may include fake, adulterated or illegal substances.

AACMA supports the research mentioned in this article and believes it is good news that researchers have found a way to indentify those affected by aristolochic acid. To help protect current and future users of Chinese herbal medicine, we remind the public to consult qualified practitioners and would like to advise that the Chinese medicine profession has been approved for inclusion in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions from 1 July 2012.

Members of the public can locate a qualified AACMA accredited Chinese medicine herbalist by contacting the AACMA National Practitioner Referral Service (1300 725 334) or via the Find a Practitioner service at [www.acupuncture.org.au](http://www.acupuncture.org.au).

Yours sincerely,  
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AACMA CEO  
11 November 2011

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