



MEDIA RELEASE

AACMA RESPONSE TO CHANNEL SEVEN'S SUNDAY NIGHT FEATURE

“Something About Mary”

<http://au.tv.yahoo.com/sunday-night/transcripts/article/-/article/7284436/something-about-mary-transcript/>

5 September 2010

Channel Seven's Sunday night feature “*Something About Mary*” informed viewers of Mary Hutton's story. Mary is the founder of the 'Free the Bears Fund Inc' (www.freethebears.org.au) and has made it her mission to protect various species of bears in Asia from being captivated and used for entertainment and medicinal purposes. The use of bear bile was a focus in the feature with reporter Alex Cullen bringing attention to the practices of some restaurants in South East Asia whose patrons “*have lunch, see bears and buy their bile*”.

The Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA) is opposed to the medical, cosmetic or other use of bear bile and other illegal products derived from endangered species. There are many herbal alternatives to the use of bear bile and therefore there is no justification for bear farming. AACMA is committed to raising the level of awareness, education and compliance with the legal requirements associated with the international wildlife trade through the Australian government funded Endangered Species Certification Scheme (www.acupuncture.org.au/escs.cfm) and does not support the use of Chinese medicines containing illegally traded wildlife ingredients.

AACMA CEO, Judy James, said "Traditional Chinese Medicine is one of the great global medical systems with an uninterrupted history of use and development spanning 1000s of years. The Traditional Chinese Medicine profession does not need to cage, farm, kill or use bears in order to provide effective and natural healthcare. The international trade in products containing bear parts is illegal and AACMA opposes their use for any medical or cosmetic purposes."

In April 2007, AACMA entered into a funding agreement with the Department of the Environment and Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) to establish and administer a collaborative certification scheme for professionals and traders involved in the research, recommendation, prescription, supply, export or import of traditional Chinese medicines. Under the scheme, certified individuals publicly declare to trade only in legally acquired wildlife parts and products and that medicines and other products derived from the legal trade in endangered species cannot be obtained from the business.

Under international and Australian wildlife law, it is illegal to import, export or trade in items that are on the CITES list of endangered species unless the appropriate permits have been issued. CITES refers to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The relevant Australian law is the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

This joint government-industry approach is aimed at raising awareness about and reducing the illegal international trade in endangered species.

A full list of CITES species can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/lists/cites/index.html>.

Media enquiries:

Ms Jazz Tyrril-Smart
Manager, AACMA Marketing, Events and Professional Development
Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd

p: 07 3324 2599 ext 16
f: 07 3394 2399

e: events@acupuncture.org.au

w: www.acupuncture.org.au

t: www.twitter.com/AACMA
t: www.twitter.com/ESCS_Cert

f: www.facebook.com/AACMA
f: www.facebook.com/EndangeredSpeciesCertificationScheme