



MEDIA RELEASE

AACMA RESPONSE TO SUNDAY MAIL ARTICLE

**More than 200,000 natural therapists work in unregistered health fields in Australia
(25 September 2011)**

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/natural-medicine-a-time-bomb/story-e6freoof-1226145328750>

The Sunday Mail published an article about non-regulated healthcare within Australia, stating that there are more than 200,000 unregistered natural therapy practitioners. The article states that “naturopathy, faith and spiritual healing, Chinese medicine, homeopathy and massage are among the unregulated fields in Queensland, with the medical community warning of a health “time bomb”.

This may mislead Sunday Mail readers to believe there are no standards being maintained for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) or that there is currently no government action for registration to occur.

The Australian Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA) wishes 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.

AACMA, the peak body representing TCM practitioners, including Chinese Herbalists and Acupuncturists, welcomes the transition of TCM to a registered profession in Australia.

AACMA CEO Judy James said ‘The protection of the public is important and the AACMA wholeheartedly agrees that rogue practitioners should be prevented from practice.’

The AACMA has consistently set the national benchmarks for Acupuncture and Chinese medicine education and practice in Australia for more than 30 years. The AACMA reassures the many people who are receiving Acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine treatments that it is safe and effective when prescribed and dispensed by a qualified Chinese medicine practitioner.

The AACMA recommends that consumers of Acupuncture and Chinese medicine should seek professional advice from an accredited Chinese medicine practitioner who is qualified to treat patients and to prescribe and dispense Chinese herbal medicines.

Members of the public can locate a qualified AACMA accredited Acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine practitioner by contacting the AACMA National Practitioner Referral Service (1300 725 334) or via the Find a Practitioner service at www.acupuncture.org.au.

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