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## NSW PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE RELEASES ITS REPORT INTO TCM

The NSW Parliament's Joint Committee of the Health Care Complaints Commission Inquiry into Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) tabled its report to the NSW Lower House on Wednesday 10 November 2005.

The cross-party Committee's recommendations give strong support for the NSW Government to introduce statutory registration of TCM practitioners. A list of the reports recommendations are included below.

AACMA supports the majority of the Committee's recommendations, including the establishment of a NSW Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board (as opposed to national board). However, we are extremely disappointed that the Committee appears to have given its support to the Victorian model whereby other health practitioner registration boards can endorse their practitioners to practise acupuncture and use the title 'acupuncturist' (Recommendation 12). Although, the Recommendation does call for transparency and consultation, this was also promised in the Victorian model and ultimately the legislation allowed each board set their own standards for acupuncture without any requirement to consult with the Chinese medicine board. AACMA will be strongly opposing any moves to include an "exemptions" provision, as per the Victorian model, in the NSW legislation.

Similarly, Recommendation 11 leaves it to the Medical Board to set standards in TCM for medical doctors, without prescribing a minimum standard that should apply. The AACMA view is that this should be at least the WHO recommendation for full training in acupuncture for Western medicine doctors wishing to practise acupuncture independently.

**Where to get a copy of the report?** The Committee's report and a copy of a transcript of the public hearings can be downloaded from the NSW Parliament website on <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au>. Click the link under Reports on the home page or follow the links via Committees.

**What now?** AACMA is undertaking a detailed review of the report and its implications for the profession and will advise members accordingly.

### Summary of Recommendations

**RECOMMENDATION 1:** That Traditional Chinese Medicine be registered in New South Wales

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** That registration should be through protection of title

**RECOMMENDATION 3:** There should be three distinct divisions of the register: acupuncturist, Chinese herbal medicine practitioner and Chinese herbal dispenser

**RECOMMENDATION 4:** That the Traditional Chinese Medicine registration legislation should be as uniform as possible with the existing twelve New South Wales health registration Acts

**RECOMMENDATION 5:** That the Traditional Chinese Medicine Board be placed under the administration of the Health Professionals Registration Boards

**RECOMMENDATION 6:** That professional indemnity insurance be a compulsory registration requirement with the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board

**RECOMMENDATION 7:** That draft legislation be prepared and tabled for public comment

**RECOMMENDATION 8:** That all members of the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Board be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Minister for Health

**RECOMMENDATION 9:** That at least one member of the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Board be able to communicate in English and either Mandarin and/or Cantonese

**RECOMMENDATION 10:** That the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Board consist of one registered doctor, one lawyer, one layperson, one NSW Health representative with the remaining members being Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners

**RECOMMENDATION 11:** That doctors who perform acupuncture be allowed to use the title "medical acupuncturist" after meeting the relevant educational and skill requirements of the New South Wales Medical Board

**RECOMMENDATION 12:** That all health professional boards who endorse their practitioners to perform acupuncture have transparent educational and skill requirements that are developed in consultation with the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Board

**RECOMMENDATION 13:** That the Minister for Health require the Traditional Chinese Medicine Board to develop a code of conduct which practitioners must adhere to

**RECOMMENDATION 14:** That the model for complaint handling and disciplinary processes for Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners should be co-regulatory involving the Board and the Health Care Complaints Commission in line with all other registered health professionals in New South Wales

**RECOMMENDATION 15:** That the staff of the Health Care Complaints Commission receive formal training in cultural competency

**RECOMMENDATION 16:** That the Health Care Complaints Commission employ the services of peer reviewers with qualifications in all three divisions of the Traditional Chinese Medicine register

**RECOMMENDATION 17:** That the Health Care Complaints Commission ensure that their provision of translating and interpreting services is in line with best practice

**RECOMMENDATION 18:** That an approved course of study which is a Bachelors degree or equivalent be the requisite criteria to meet registration requirements to practice Traditional Chinese Medicine

**RECOMMENDATION 19:** That all Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners be required to list with the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board as an initial step in the registration process and that this listing last for an initial period of five years

**RECOMMENDATION 20:** Listed practitioners who have had five years full time practice experience within the last ten years but do not have the academic qualifications to meet the registration criteria should be eligible for registration after meeting the requirements of an approved bridging course or having passed an examination set by the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board

**RECOMMENDATION 21:** Acupuncturists should remain under the jurisdiction of the Public Health (Skin Penetration) Regulation 2000 until such time as the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board has the ability to conduct clinical inspections

**RECOMMENDATION 22:** That a certificate from the relevant council verifying that an inspection of an acupuncturist's premises has been conducted and safe hygiene practices are being complied with be a registration requirement for all acupuncturists

**RECOMMENDATION 23:** That the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board be required to pass on details of listed practitioners and their clinics to the relevant council for inclusion on the council's register of premises kept in accordance with the Public Health (Skin Penetration) Regulation 2000

**RECOMMENDATION 24:** That New South Wales Health consider substantially increasing penalties for non compliance with hygiene practices regulated under the Public Health (Skin Penetration) Regulation 2000 when the regulation is reviewed

**RECOMMENDATION 25:** That the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board appoint a community liaison officer to work with local councils and provide training in Traditional Chinese Medicine practices to assist them with their duties under the Public Health (Skin Penetration) Regulation 2000

**RECOMMENDATION 26:** That the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board, where possible, work to achieve consistency of standards across Australia for registration of Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners

**RECOMMENDATION 27:** That NSW Health, the Traditional Chinese Medicine Board and the Health Care Complaints Commission jointly undertake a bilingual public awareness campaign on the introduction of registration for practitioners of Traditional Chinese Medicine and on the roles of the relevant agencies in handling complaints

**RECOMMENDATION 28:** That the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board receive seed funding from NSW Health in order to establish itself

**RECOMMENDATION 29:** That the Western medicine component of professional entry-level courses for Traditional Chinese Medicine be increased and that courses include practical experience in Traditional Chinese Medicine within a clinical setting

**RECOMMENDATION 30:** That all registered Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners be required to undertake Continuing Professional Education

**RECOMMENDATION 31:** That all educational courses which are recognised by the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board be approved by the Minister for Health by way of regulation on the advice of the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board

**RECOMMENDATION 32:** That the New South Wales Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board establish an education Committee to advise it on suitable educational standards and courses

**RECOMMENDATION 33:** That the Traditional Chinese Medicine Registration Board promote and co-ordinate research into Traditional Chinese Medicine, in particular the interaction between Western medicine and Chinese herbal medicine

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## CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

### FOR SALE

VIC TREATMENT TABLE Immaculate Jade-green vinyl 'Ultralite Body Contour Table with Lift Up Back-rest' (Great for pregnant clients); PLUS Arm-rests, Adjustable Face-rest and Chair-strap. (Top of the range Firm'n'Fold Ultra series - view on [www.massageequip.com](http://www.massageequip.com)); Forest Hill VIC RRP: \$755 Will sell for \$450 PH: (03) 9878 2133.

QLD Gold Coast Clinic for Sale. Modern offices, Established 3 years. Central Location, Street frontage, Free parking. 825 sq m, 2 offices, 2 treatment rooms. Suit Acupuncturist/Herbalist. Large reception area, western herbal dispensary. Huge potential. Great business opportunity. For facts sheet Phone 07 5522 0411.

TAS FOR SALE...VEGA TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS. Latest in Bio-energetic medicine from Germany; Give your business a new edge. VEGACHECK - performs complete systems checkup. Generates diagnostics with list of target therapies. As new \$25000 (NP \$32000 +).

VEGATEST EXPERT - holistic testing detects symptom causes and ascertains treatment. New \$19500 (NP \$27500). VEGASELECT -harmonised vibrational therapy to treat a multitude of ailments. As new \$23000. (NP\$30000). Prices negotiable. Contact Michelle on 03 6344 5034.

VIC (Mt Waverley) Medical Centre for Sale. Newly established medical centre with nutritional GP, naturopath, psychologist. 3 consulting rooms, 1 treatment room, 1 seminar/waiting room, big receptionist area, fully computerised, completely furnished. 10 car parking. Suit acupuncturist. Ready made practice. Price on enquiry (negotiable). Please ring: Dr. Valerie Cole 9562 1979 (b/w 9-10am/pm), 0402 292 853 (any time), 9803 2566 (Tues, Wed, Fri b/w 10 - 6pm). Email: [pcole@impaq.com.au](mailto:pcole@impaq.com.au).

ACT Practice for sale. Quality established practice for sale in Canberra, ACT. Modalities used are acupuncture, patent herbal medicine, massage, chiropractic (mostly soft tissue techniques). Busy attractive location. Practitioner leaving for research and teaching. Price is \$20,000. An excellent opportunity for an acupuncturist who uses massage! Phone 0408 428 023.

QLD Second-hand BOOK SALE (relocating). Large range acupuncture, Chinese medicine books. Bargain Prices!! Dr Chan 07 3371 8511. Also NEW RELEASE BOOK: "SACRED SURFER, ETERNAL WAVE: A Path to Truth, Love and Freedom" by Dr PEE TEK CHAN. Available local bookstores or order from Brisbane Medical Practice, Toowong. Phone 07 3371 8511 (Meditation CD from book also available).

VIC WANTED- second hand Laser machine, preferably handheld. Please contact De-Arne on 03 98268633.

VIC Newly established medical centre with nutritional GP, naturopath, massage therapists, counsellors. 3 consulting rooms, 1 treatment room, 1 seminar/waiting room, receptionist area, fully computerised, completely furnished. 10 car parking. Suit GP, acupuncturist. Ready made practice. Price on enquiry. Please ring: Dr. Valerie Cole 9562 1979, 0402292853, 9803 2566. Email: [pcole@impaq.com.au](mailto:pcole@impaq.com.au)

QLD "The Practise of Chinese Medicine" by Giovanni Maciocia. As new. Normal Price: \$330- selling it for \$240. Please contact Andrea on 073901 7922.

### CLINICS/ROOMS

VIC Fully furnished room for rent in a Modern and highly prominent laser & skin clinic in Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe Vic. Room can be used for many modalities and includes electricity, water and heating/cooling. Flexible rental depending on days required. Potential for cross selling/services. Contact Nevine on 0413 555 444.

NSW Consulting rooms available for lease in long established multi-modality clinics. Reception, dispensary, website and comprehensive marketing strategy. Rooms are all large, furnished, sinks, air-conditioned and have large opening bay windows. One has lovely botanical garden and harbour views. Email [sandy@lifeclinic.com.au](mailto:sandy@lifeclinic.com.au) or call 02 9251 1090 for more details.

NSW Lane Cove - Room available to rent on a daily basis. Newly renovated established health care clinic with great referral opportunities. Flexible lease agreement. Please contact Mary on 0408 960 483.

QLD One of the largest natural therapies centre on the Redcliffe peninsula is seeking an acupuncturist with massage skills to join our growing practice and replace a practitioner who is leaving in October. 2 full days per week available as well as other 3-4 hour sessions. Remuneration negotiable. So if you want a sea change and are passionate about Acupuncture and massage

please email [katy on knacc@tpg.com.au](mailto:katy.onkacc@tpg.com.au).

QLD Acupuncture Room Available For Rent within Personal Training Studio at Albion. Great exposure and fantastic opportunity for cross referrals. Approx \$250/Week. To be filled ASAP. Please contact Kirsten Cooke on 0405 105 845 for more information.

VIC Professional room to let on part-time or close to full-time basis to acupuncturist in a very high exposure clinic in central Albert Park. Please call Rachel on 9690 7918.

NSW previously occupied by Chinese Medicine/Acupuncture practitioners. Three sunny treatment rooms, waiting room, herbal dispensary and furnished (if required). 3-4 parking spaces, close to Carlingford Court and Carlingford Village, in main road, cheaper rent. Ideal for TCM practitioner, massage, Naturopath or Chiropractor. Call 02 9514 7852 or 0401 682 941.

### LOCUMS REQUIRED/POSITIONS VACANT

NSW Thinking of expanding your practice? Come and work with us in Narrabeen on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Join a great team at our busy Osteopathic practice and work together in a unique environment with our team of allied professionals. Ideally located in the centre of a large growing catchment area. You will work in modern rooms all linked by computer with a friendly team, off-street parking, only a stone throw from the beach. Contact Niki on: 02 9913 7900 or email: [beaches@osteopathiccentre.com.au](mailto:beaches@osteopathiccentre.com.au).

NT (Alice Springs) "Expression of Interest - Chinese Medicine Practitioner". Min Education Level: Tertiary level training (Recent graduate considered). Trained Qi Gong instructor. Language Skills: Fluent English. Sponsorship Available: Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (Permanent resident status granted with 2 year employment contract). Relocation/travel assistance considered. Contact: [tcmas5@hotmail.com](mailto:tcmas5@hotmail.com).

QLD (Sunshine Coast) Locum Required. An experienced acupuncturist is required from the 16th of November to early January 2006 to service an established client base in a busy 'wellness' focused practice. Experience in fertility would be an advantage. Contact Andrea Bicket for more information on 0418 506678

VIC Experienced Acupuncturist wanted to work in well-established Bayside Centre 2-3 days per week on a Rental Basis. Room equipped with hands-free basin and shelving for dispensary. Centre provides a positive, supportive team environment. Good passing trade. The successful practitioner will be a passionate, enthusiastic self-starter committed to his or her practice within a co-operative team environment. Reception support available. Please forward expressions of interest/resumes to [bntc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bntc@optusnet.com.au) or contact us on (03) 9533-4122.

QLD Locum Acupuncturist/Chinese Medicine Herbalist is urgently required for the period of 16 Nov. to 17 Dec. 2005 for the Springwood Wellness Centre. Person interested the position should contact Director Ms Kellie Dawson ASAP by email to: [swc@bigpond.com](mailto:swc@bigpond.com) call the clinic No. 07 3808 6633.

QLD Position available for casual Acupuncturist 3 afternoons and Saturday morning a week percentage. Phone Kouvan Natural Health 07 3806 9099.

QLD Relocating to Brisbane? Earn \$50,000 + first year. Lease fully renovated home/office/clinic. Included: Business established 10 years, active database over 400 clients, referral network, independent business coaching. Applicant: RMT qualifications, association membership and PI insurance. Contact: Murray Crean 07 3844 0773 or 0405 645125 [bodywork@tpg.com.au](mailto:bodywork@tpg.com.au).

QLD Wanted 1 Male and 1 Female Diploma Level Remedial Massage Therapist. Required For Massage position located at Fitness First Robina. Health Fund Provider Numbers advantageous. Please forward resume to [info@thevitalityzone.com.au](mailto:info@thevitalityzone.com.au). Please contact Shane (07) 3349 0005 between the hours of 11am-2pm Mon-Fri.

QLD Acupuncturist required to join growing health clinic. Established client base in Ascot/Clayfield/Hamilton area of Brisbane. Fax resume to: (07) 3262 2154.

QLD Qualified massage therapists wanted for busy inner-city clinic with acupuncturist, physiotherapist and Feldenkrais practitioner. Clinic hours are 9am-6pm and Saturday's 9am-1pm. Payment on a percentage basis, no weekly rent. Working days are negotiable to suit you. Contact Yeronga Natural Therapies on (07) 3848 4992 or email [yer-nat-therapies@hotmail.com](mailto:yer-nat-therapies@hotmail.com).

QLD Forest Lake Massage/Acupuncture Clinic. Casual Acupuncturist Position Available. 15 hours per week. Good rate of pay. Must be registered Acupuncturist & Remedial Massage Therapist. Must be accredited with Health Funds. Contact Alison 07 3372 8773.

NSW Self-motivated & dedicated Acupuncturist/TCM 3-5 days/week for established health care practice in Sutherland Shire (Caringbah). Choice of 2 rooms, fixed rent, no overheads, ample parking. Private, quiet & relaxed environment. Referrals from Naturopath and Massage Therapists. Call or fax Christine on (02) 9501 0326 or 0414 626 360.

VIC Experienced Acupuncturist wanted to work in well-established Bayside Centre 2-3 days per week on a Rental Basis. Room equipped with hands-free basin and shelving for dispensary. Centre provides a positive, supportive team environment. Good passing trade. The successful practitioner will be a passionate, enthusiastic self-starter committed to his or her practice within a co-operative team

environment. Reception support available. Please forward expressions of interest / resumes to [bntc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bntc@optusnet.com.au) or contact us on (03) 9533-4122.

QLD Noosa - Urgent locum needed, Acupuncturist, Herbalist, some massage if possible October the 15th to November the 19th. Busy multi modality clinic with Chiropractor, Physio, Osteopath, Podiatrist, massage therapists etc. 3 days a week work with the possibility of more. Beautiful fun team in an incredible location on the heart of noosa sound. Please phone Byron on 0413 738 379. or 07 5474 0466.

QLD Gympie - Clinic position available for an Acupuncturist and or Naturopath/ Herbalist in a beautiful location in Gympie. The Gympie yoga and relaxation centre has a wonderful team of yoga teachers, massage therapists, wholistic counsellor, Bowen therapist and ongoing workshops. Cheap rent. Please phone Gerry on 07 5482 6263.

VIC An opportunity exists for an Acupuncturist to establish themselves in newly opening rooms in Wangaratta, Victoria. Currently the rooms are occupied by a sole Physiotherapist who is keen to develop a multi-disciplinary group. Further details can be obtained from PhysioCare Wangaratta 25 Green St, Wangaratta 3677, 03 5721 5874.

QLD Natural Therapists Required. Do You Want to Work in a Very Busy Contemporary Natural Therapy Health Centre, Located in Indooroopilly and Garden City Shoppingtowns? Chi Link, a nationwide Natural Therapy Health Centre requires qualified, experienced Natural Therapists, preferably multi-skilled in one or more following modalities: Acupuncture, Massage therapy (Prefer Oriental-Appressure Massage) and Herbal Medicine. You will be self-motivated, have excellent customer service skills and possess a friendly, outgoing personality. Health funds rebate essential. We offer excellent working conditions, well computerized management system, thousands client database. The right therapist can be guaranteed work income. For further information about our clinics, please visit <http://www.chi-link.com.au>. Please email your resume to [ken@chi-link.com.au](mailto:ken@chi-link.com.au) and phone 0414 325 283 or 0433 511 801.

NSW Acupuncturist/Chinese Medicine Practitioner/Massage Therapists wanted for Sydney CBD or Parramatta. Call 0412 192 018.

VIC TCM Practitioner/Acupuncturist Wanted - Bayside. Our Natural Therapies Centre is wanting a TCM Practitioner/Acupuncturist to work alongside a diverse team of Natural Therapists for 2 - 3 days/week on Room Rental Basis. Good passing trade & exposure, supportive environment, booking/reception service also provided. Please contact Clair/Ethene' 03 9533 4122 or forward resume [bntc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bntc@optusnet.com.au).

NSW Acupuncturist/Herbalist locum required for 1 year with a view to join a very busy TCM practice in Rozelle, established 17 years. Excellent opportunity for an experienced competent practitioner to join this sunny, light filled centre professionally run by a practice manager. Willingness to specialise in male and female infertility essential. Further training provided. Please send cv to Sandra at [info@thehealthcentre.com.au](mailto:info@thehealthcentre.com.au).

VIC What is your ideal practice? Peaceful, Happy, Professional, Multi-Disciplinary, 45 min from the CBD, Ideal Patient Demographics? I have this are far more.... I am looking for a practitioner with experience in Acupuncture, Chinese herbs, and Massage, to work in my Sunbury and Gisborne clinic. Please contact Danielle Slade 0413455381.

NSW Position available for newly graduated acupuncturist in well established clinic as assisting practitioner. Terms and conditions: Mon-Fri, either morning or afternoon shift (6 hours). \$30,000 p.a. including 9%super, 4weeks paid holidays. Please submit resume (CV) to: General Manager Acupuncture Clinic P.O. Box 3006, Tamarama NSW 2025.

VIC (Mt Waverley) Acupuncturist Wanted/Partner Wanted to join team in complementary medical centre with nutritional GP, surgeon, naturopath, massage therapist, counsellors. Rent: \$70/session of 25% of gross. Choose own hours. Partnership available. Excellent, committed supportive team. Fully computerised. Please ring: Dr. Valerie Cole 9562 1979 (b/w 9-10am/pm), 0402292853 (any time), 9803 2566 (Tues, Wed, Fri b/w 10 - 6pm). Email: [pcole@impaq.com.au](mailto:pcole@impaq.com.au).

NSW Acupuncturist required for established part time practice (8 years) in Balmain NSW. Experience in general acupuncture and women's health. Nice furnished room, spacious. In well known Natural Therapy Centre. Please contact Chrissy 02 9555 7055.

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