

Thursday, 19 December 2013

ATMS response to the proposed Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists - ARONAH

The Australian Traditional Medicine Society (ATMS) is dissatisfied with the recent announcement from the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC), Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) and Australian Integrative Medicine Association (AIMA) to support the proposed Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONAH) model of regulation for the Natural Medicine industry.

For while the ATMS fully support the need to provide a level of confidence to consumers, implement strict qualification and ensure training requirements and benchmarks as well as establish and oversee codes of conduct, ATMS is concerned that the proposed ARONAH model does not cover all Natural Medicine practitioners.

The proposed ARONAH model will be responsible for registering naturopaths, Herbalists and Nutritionists until statutory registration through Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) can be achieved. Realistically this could take 5-15 years.

However, other occupations such as Homeopaths have not been identified and will not be recognised under this model, leaving them out of the system which aims to provide access to otherwise publicly-restricted technical information, research and other resources for registered practitioners.

Maggie Sands, President ATMS said, "We currently represent over 12,000 members across 30 modalities, the largest group of Natural Medicine practitioners in Australia. ATMS continues to uphold strict membership entry and continuing education requirements. Our own membership directory is already a register of professional natural medicine practitioners.

"We remain committed to supporting all of our members and modalities and will remain strong in our endeavours to ensure that all Natural Medicine professionals receive the same level of recognition and are not left out.

"We are disappointed with the CHC, ASMI and AIMA decision and strongly advise the Department of Health not to support ARONAH.

"ATMS will continue to maintain high educational and professional standards for its membership and will continue to build and implement strategic plans to ensure our membership remains strong and our industry continues to develop and flourish," Ms Sands added.

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