

Media Release

12 December 2013

CHC Supports Registration of Complementary Healthcare Professionals

In response to proposed regulatory reforms that impact the ability of un-registered health professionals such as naturopaths, western herbalists and nutritionists to receive comprehensive information about the substances they prescribe for their patients, the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) has recommended the Department of Health supports the independent registration system, the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists (ARONAH).

Mr Carl Gibson, Chief Executive Officer of the CHC said, “the ARONAH is a system of registration that mirrors the Federal Government’s National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals – the system that includes doctors, dentists and nurses, and more recently practitioners of Traditional Chinese Medicine – and is a system that provides a level of confidence that there are strict qualification benchmarks, codes of conduct and other professional obligations applicable to these professions.”

The CHC believes that with the ARONAH as the registration body for these health professionals, the complementary medicines regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and the public, can have greater confidence that only those who are suitably trained and qualified receive the information that is vital for them to continue to practise in a competent and ethical manner.

As the peak industry body for complementary medicines in Australia, the CHC recognises the importance of complementary healthcare professionals to an effective integrative model and the enhancement of patient-centred health. It is vital that these professionals, with their advanced level of training and knowledge, are able to access sufficient technical information on substances, including current research and treatment of disease that may not necessarily be appropriate for the average consumer.

“Ultimately, we expect that naturopaths, herbalists and nutritionists will be included under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals, but we are aware that a series of Government reviews are being undertaken before additional health professions will be considered for inclusion in the scheme”.

“We urge the Department of Health to support the ARONAH, as we are confident that this model will be a sustainable system for the professions of naturopaths, western herbalists and nutritionists until such a time that statutory registration can be achieved,” Mr Gibson said.

ENDS

For Media Interviews or Further Information Contact:

Media and Communications Associate:	Casuarina Forsyth	+61 2 6260 4022
CHC, Chief Executive:	Carl Gibson	+61 432 201 945