

Media Release

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Call for GPs to get schooling in complementary medicines

Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) applauds the announcement by the Minister for Health, the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, of a new collaborative governance arrangement for future GP training, and highlights the importance of greater complementary medicines knowledge required by general practitioners and other primary healthcare providers.

Mr Carl Gibson, chief executive officer of CMA said, “We congratulate the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine who will be jointly managing the governance of future GP training via a General Practice Training Advisory Committee, which will provide advice to government on GP training policy and delivery.”

“With around 75% of the Australian population using complementary medicines, it is crucial that all doctors and healthcare professionals are able to discuss the use of these medicines with their patients. The new Advisory Committee will ideally include clinicians with specific complementary medicines expertise,” said Mr Gibson.

“Complementary medicine companies always advise consumers to speak with their doctor or healthcare professional about the products they are using, so is essential that doctors are able to converse knowledgably with their patients on this area of medicine. Complementary medicines are used as part of a preventive health regime or in conjunction with pharmaceuticals, and this needs to be acknowledged and incorporated into medical training.”

“Complementary medicines are playing an increasingly integral role in our economy and community. As such, government needs to translate this into policy and ensure that medical professionals are meeting the demands of the population,” Mr Gibson went on to say.

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