

Registration Standards in Homœopathy

(Standards and credentials of Australian Homœopaths as at January 2008)

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National Competency Standards in homœopathy

Recent Federal Government reports have recommended that there should be effective and accountable structures to ensure that complementary medicine practitioners are appropriately qualified and work within appropriate standards of ethical and professional behaviour to safeguard consumers.

The homœopathic profession in Australia has already achieved the type of organisation and self-regulation suggested by the Government. Some notable milestones achieved in establishing homœopathic standards in Australia:

- **National Competency Standards established - 1999:** Federal Government endorsement of *National Competency Standards in Homœopathy* (NCSH) in 1999, in conjunction with the *Australian National Training Authority* (ANTA).
- **Health Training Package – 2002:** The formulation in 2002 of the *Health Training Package* (HLT02) in conjunction with the homœopathic profession and the federal *Industry Training Advisory Body* (ITAB). HLT02 incorporated the NCSH, and defined standards of homœopathic education for *Registered Training Organisations* (RTOs).
- **Review by the profession – 2006:** In 2005 HLT02 came under the control of the *Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council* (CSHISC) and underwent a significant review in 2006-2007. This review involved extensive feedback from the homœopathic profession, with the AHA providing significant input into this process.
- **Updated standards – 2007:** The revised version of the *Health Training Package* (HLT07) continues to define standards of homœopathic education for *Registered Training Organisations* (RTOs). Graduates of courses meeting these standards are eligible for professional registration with the *Australian Register of Homœopaths* (AROH).

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Credentials of homœopaths in Australia

In 1999 an independent national registration board was established for homœopaths who meet government-endorsed standards. This board, the *Australian Register of Homœopaths* (AROH), is the national register and self-regulation body for homœopaths, replacing the registration role of the various homœopathic associations throughout Australia. AROH functions in the same way as the registration boards of osteopaths, and chiropractors. [AROH website: www.aroh.com.au]

The criteria for registration with AROH are based on the *National Competency Standards in Homœopathy* (NCSH), as embodied in the *Health Training Package* (HLT07), and include underpinning knowledge, clinical competencies, medical sciences, etc. In addition, practitioners must maintain their continuing professional development (or CPD), and hold a current senior first-aid certificate.

Practitioners registered with AROH are recognised by all the major health insurance funds for rebates on ancillary benefit tables.

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The Australian Homœopathic Association

The *Australian Homœopathic Association* (AHA) is the only national professional association for homœopathic practitioners with branches in all States of Australia. The AHA provides ongoing professional support and education for registered practitioners, and all of our Professional Members must maintain their registration with AROH each year.

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International Recognition – ICH Membership

The *Australian Homœopathic Association* (AHA) is a founding member of the *International Council of Homœopathy* (ICH). The ICH represents homœopaths from countries where such practice is recognised, and has as its membership properly constituted professional associations representing homœopaths within a particular continent.

The objectives of the Council include striving to:

- Encourage consistency of standards within the homœopathy profession through mutual co-operation and the exchange of knowledge, experience and resources.
- Ensure the public's freedom of choice in healthcare by promoting and maintaining the right of homœopaths to practise homœopathy throughout the World, and to seek official recognition for the profession from the institutions of each national government and from multi-national government bodies.
- Act as an international advisory body to national and international governmental, scientific, academic and other relevant institutions.

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Finding a qualified homœopath

Unfortunately, at present, Government laws do not prevent anybody who is not properly qualified from calling themselves a "Homœopath". Practitioners registered with the *Australian Register of Homœopaths* (AROH) meet the government-endorsed educational standards for homœopaths.

To find a registered practitioner in your area, refer to the 'Find a Homœopath' option on this website.

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