

To: Podiatry Board of Australia

Acupuncture in Podiatry Submission

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Re: Option 2 The title “Acupuncturist”

There is no value in a podiatrist or other allied health profession using the title ‘acupuncturist’ when they are not offering the scope of treatment that a registration in the province of acupuncture with the Chinese Medical Board of Australia implies. The general public should not be subject to the confusion that would and does already exist when there is a duality of distinct scopes of practice.

For any allied health professionals to use the term ‘acupuncturist’ then they should have to be qualified to the satisfaction of CMBA. Then even if the professional does not offer the full scope of traditional medicine they will have sufficient understanding to relate clearly with the client about the distinctions.

At present far too many allied health professionals are comfortable in giving the impression that they are qualified as acupuncturists and the confusion is evident.

Re: Option 1 Podiatry Specific Accreditation

There is widespread use of acupuncture techniques by allied health professionals in seeking symptomatic relief of presenting conditions.

Podiatrists in particular have the overwhelming medical competency to use needling techniques for such relief. This is by virtue of their training in injection techniques, minor surgery, the handling of associated adverse events, skills in skin penetration, wound healing and the management of severely ‘at risk’ cases. Nevertheless, with this medical competency, there should also be a requirement for the podiatrist to undertake practical training in western medical needling techniques, safety issues and review of the management of

