



Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists

**2014-2015 Report from
Australian Register of**

Herbalists

**the Chair of the
Naturopaths and**

Background

This year was an interesting year for the operations and activities of the Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists. We achieved a number of successes with regards to stakeholder engagement and lobbying, but also faced challenges in the areas of membership and sustainability. This report overviews the key activities related to these areas.

Stakeholder engagement

In 2015, ARONAH established relationships with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and was acknowledged as having education standards which are appropriate and necessary for future degree accreditation for the professions of Western herbal medicine and naturopathy. TEQSA have already asked higher education providers to demonstrate compliance with ARONAH standards for Western herbal medicine. Discussions are ongoing regarding TEQSA utilization of naturopathy standards. This important step cements ARONAH's role as the recognized independent accreditation authority for these professions in Australia.

ARONAH was also one of the founding members of the World Naturopathic Federation and Dr Amie Steel attended the inaugural assembly of the WNF in Calgary. Through this involvement ARONAH has joined the international community of agencies responsible for accreditation and registration of naturopathy. ARONAH is also taking a leading role in the WNF Professional Mapping committee alongside representatives from DRC Congo, Canada, France and New Zealand.

Formal discussions were undertaken in 2015 to extend the jurisdiction of ARONAHs accreditation and membership to include New Zealand training organizations and graduates. These discussions were initiated by New Zealand colleges and professional associations. Discussion are ongoing to develop these Trans-Tasman arrangements.

Lobbying

Through its commitments to ongoing lobbying for statutory registration, ARONAH representatives have contacted state and federal health ministers throughout 2015 and held face-to-face meetings with representatives from:

- QLD Department of Health
- VIC Department of Health
- NSW Department of Health
- SA Department of Health
- Health Workforce Principal Committee
- Practitioner Regulation Sub-committee of the HWPC
- Allied Health Council
- Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency
- Therapeutic Goods Administration
- Senator Nick Xenophon

ARONAH has continued its active role in submissions to government consultations. Major submissions this year included the Community Health Services Industry Skills Council on minimum training standards for the professions of naturopathy and Western herbal medicine, and the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council on regulatory options for unregistered practitioners.

Most recently, ARONAH has signed a memorandum of agreement with all naturopathic representatives of the WNF to work in a joint capacity on lobbying for registration of the profession.

Media and communications

Significant media attention was given to the competency of practice of naturopaths this year. ARONAH responded to this situation promptly and garnered a number of interviews which were reported in TV, radio and print media. Through these interviews ARONAH highlighted the importance of statutory registration in overcoming the risk to the public of unqualified practitioners practicing as a naturopath. The two TV media clips were featured on prime time morning (Today Show) and evening (The Project) programs respectively. The clips were also added to the ARONAH YouTube channel where the clip from The Project was viewed 2396 times and the clip from the Today Show was viewed 1344 times.

Complaints

In 2015, ARONAH received 8 complaints against practitioners and 1 complaint against an education provider. As none of these related to ARONAH members, these complaints were referred as appropriate to relevant professional associations and state health complaints care commissions.

Sustainability

Membership growth has been slow in 2015 due to the voluntary nature of ARONAH as an independent register. This slow growth in membership numbers is expected to be an ongoing issue. Therefore ARONAH is refocusing efforts on accreditation and registration as these are the areas that ARONAH has been most successful in protecting the public through ensuring high standards of professional practice and training. Successes in these areas include TEQSA adoption of standards, and *in principle* agreement of all degree granting institutions in Australia to comply with ARONAH standards (with two institutions making arrangements for ARONAH accreditation).

To address the sustainability and reduce the administrative burden on volunteer workforce, ARONAH has also appointed paid administrative support to assist with processing and assessment membership applications. This has resulted in a reduced time from receipt of application and finalization of membership.

See appendix 1 for more financial information



Report prepared by
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Chairperson - ARONAH

APPENDIX 1

FINANCIAL REPORT:

ARONAH's financial position has improved during the last financial year (2014/2015) .As of July 2014 ARONAH had \$962.51 in various bank accounts and this increased substantially to \$4692.53 at the end of June 2015. This growth was due not only to membership fees being due for payment by 30th June 2015 but also due to diversification of income streams as a result of our sustainability strategies. The most notable of these is the development of course accreditation processes through which we received course accreditation fees for programs which complied with ARONAH's defined Course Accreditation Guidelines.



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APPENDIX 2

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS FOR NATUROPATHS AND WESTERN HERBALISTS LISTED ON THE THERAPEUTIC GOODS REGISTER FOR SCHEDULE 1 CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

List also available at: <http://www.tga.gov.au/industry/advertising-schedule1-certificates.htm#.VEjoyOfTWvQ>

2A	Association of Natural Health Practitioners Limited
3B	Australasian Federation of Natural Therapists Inc.
5	Australasian Association of Ayurveda Incorporated
7	Australian Committee of Natural Therapies Inc. (SA)
10	Australian Natural Therapists Association Ltd
11	Australian Naturopathic Practitioners and Chiropractors Association
13	Australian Traditional Chinese Medicine Association Inc.
14	Australian Traditional Medicine Society
16	Complementary Medicine Association
17B	International Christian Association of Natural Therapists Ltd (ICANT)
18	National Herbalists Association of Australia
18A	Naturopathic Physicians Association of Australia Inc.
19	Queensland Naturopathic Association
21	Society of Natural Therapists and Researchers [SNTR] Inc.
25	Naturopathic Practitioners Association Inc.
26A	The Alumni Association of Natural Medicine Practitioners Inc.
26AA	The Australian Association of Homotoxicology Incorporated