To: Podiatry Board of Australia

Acupuncture in Podiatry Submission

Prepared by Shane Toohey, Podiatrist and Acupuncturist

23/09/2012

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 <u>symptomatic relief of presenting conditions</u>. 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

adverse events. As happens in the UK, the podiatrist could earn 'acupuncture certification' by completing approved training. This will help maintain standards of care and understanding of the scope of practice in the use of the techniques within the symptomatic treatment of podiatric conditions. The podiatrist would only be certified to treat conditions that fall within the province of podiatry. Should they wish to go further then they will need CMBA registration. It is possible that the Australian Podiatry Council could maintain a register of accredited podiatrists with perhaps a requirement for some continuing professional development.

To be clear, I have an interest in the training for podiatrist in acupuncture techniques. However I am not alone in this and would expect to be reviewed by the accrediting body the same as other organisations that provide training in this modality. My interest has an imperative that the use of this modality is safe and effective and that the distinction that is Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is kept clear and respected.

I am willing to go into more depth about any issues mentioned in this submission.

Sincerely

Shane Toohey