

**Title of Project:** Practising Chinese medicine in non-private practice.

**(FOR Code/s):** 1104

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**Location of Project:** Campbelltown

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### **Project Background**

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners in Australia work predominantly in private practice as lone practitioners. There is advocacy within the complementary medicine arena to engage TCM more in integrative medicines. There is a small cohort of practitioners who have experience working in integrated settings – specifically women’s health centres, worker’s health centres and hospitals – and this experience would be useful for health planners and TCM educators to better understand the benefits and dilemmas of working in not-for-profit and/or integrative clinical settings (Baer & Coulter, 2008; Boon, Verhoef, O'Hara, & Findlay, 2004; Hunter, Marshall, Corcoran, Leeder, & Phelps, 2013; Kelner, Wellman, Boon, & Welsh, 2004; Robinson, 2006; Singer & Adams, 2014)

### **Aim of Study:**

To explore the work experience of TCM practitioners who work in other than private practice settings, focusing particularly on the benefits and dilemmas of working in an integrated team and working with clients who do not pay directly for service.

### **Methods:**

To locate through professional associations and networks practitioners who have worked in non-private practice settings, design and administer a survey of their views and experiences and undertake in-depth interviews of selected TCM practitioners who work in other than private practice settings.

### **Ethics Application Requirements:**

Ethics approval is required.

### **Key References:**

- Baer, H., & Coulter, I. D. (2008). Taking stock of integrative medicine: Broadening biomedicine or cooption of complementary and alternative medicine? *Health Sociology Review, 17*(4), 331-341.
- Boon, H., Verhoef, M., O'Hara, D., & Findlay, B. (2004). From parallel practice to integrative health care: a conceptual framework. *BMC Health Services Research, 4*(15).
- Hunter, J., Marshall, J., Corcoran, K., Leeder, S., & Phelps, K. (2013). A positive concept of health e Interviews with patients and practitioners in an integrative medicine clinic. *Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice, 19*, 197-203.
- Kelner, M., Wellman, B., Boon, H., & Welsh, S. (2004). Responses of established healthcare to the professionalization of complementary and alternative medicine in Ontario. *Social Science & Medicine, 59*, 915–930.
- Robinson, N. (2006). Integrated traditional Chinese medicine. *Complementary Therapies Clin Pract, 12*, 132 - 140.
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