



**Australian Natural Therapists Association
Ltd
(ANTA)**

ABN 68 000 161 142

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PROFILE OF ANTA

Approved by: ANTA National Council

Executive Officer: Brian Coleman

The Australian Natural Therapists Association Limited (ANTA) is a major national democratic association of '*recognised professional*' traditional medicine and natural therapy (Complementary Medicine) practitioners who work in the areas of health care and preventative medicine.

ANTA was founded in 1955 and represents the multi-disciplinary interests of approximately 3900 accredited practitioners Australia-wide. ANTA is one of the original *Schedule 1* bodies as defined in the regulations of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

ANTA was recognised by the Australian Taxation Office, in November 2002, under a private ruling as '*...a professional association that has uniform national registration requirements for practitioners of traditional medicine and natural therapies...*' thereby allowing ANTA practitioners of Acupuncture, Chinese Herbal Medicine, Naturopathy and Western Herbal Medicine to practice GST- free.

ANTA :

- provides an egalitarian representation of all disciplines accredited by the association,
- possesses an infrastructure which enables the association to encompass all aspects of the profession,
- represents the interests of individual disciplines,
- acts as advocate for practitioners of all disciplines accredited by the association, and
- promotes the health and safety of consumers of traditional medicine and natural therapy health services.

The disciplines recognised and accredited by ANTA are :

Acupuncture
Aromatherapy
Ayurvedic Medicine
Chinese Herbal Medicine
Chiropractic/Osteopathy
Homoeopathy
Naturopathy
Nutrition
Oriental Remedial Therapy
Remedial Massage Therapy
Traditional Chinese Medicine
Western Herbal Medicine

ANTA is committed to providing the Australian public with the highest possible standards for the conduct and safety of traditional medicine and natural therapy practitioners, and addresses standards for conduct and safety through:

- The high standard of entry requirements for potential members.
- Yearly review of entry standards to maintain currency and ensure relevance.
- Active participation in setting standards at national and state levels via industry reference group and working committee participation.
- Free student membership to the Association.
- Yearly review of the courses on offer within the profession, and courses currently accredited by ANTA's accreditation board.
- Compulsory yearly proof of minimum continuing professional education requirements of members.
- Provision of avenues of continuing professional education for members.
- Compulsory up to date senior first aid certificates.
- Compulsory malpractice liability insurance.
- The Association enforces a strict Code of Professional Ethics.
- The Association maintains effective complaints handling and resolutions mechanisms outlined in the Constitution.
- Provision of communication via the Members' page on the ANTA website of the most up to date information related to the profession.
- Provision of Newsletters and ANTA e-News detailing information of current interest to the profession.
- Provision of a Professional Publication 'The Natural Therapist', four times a year offering the latest information available on topics of interest to the profession.
- Provision of an ANTA website to allow interested persons and consumers to obtain information about the Association and the location of practitioners of the Association.
- Consultation with Members on matters of importance. The Association uses the Members' web page, consultation meetings, newsletters and the magazine to consult with Members.

- A '1800' number promoted to consumers and practitioners, facilitating a pathway for direct communication with the Association's national administration office staff.
- A '1800' number and web page promoted to consumers and practitioners, to identify appropriately qualified practitioners in the consumer's geographical area.
- Undertaking ongoing internal audits of its policies and processes of operation and all matters to do with professional practice.
- Undertaking a yearly audit of its Constitution which includes the Association's Complaints, Ethics & Disciplinary Panels.
- Undertaking a yearly audit of its Code of Professional Ethics.
- Ongoing consultation and collaboration with other professional associations.
- Ongoing dialogue and correspondence with ministers, government departments and regulatory bodies.
- Ongoing research of policies in overseas professional associations and policies of overseas governments.

ANTA is a company limited by guarantee, and is governed by a National Council [Board of Directors] which is elected by the Members of the Association for a term of 3 years. The Council in turn elects all office bearing positions within the Association, which are for a term of 1 year.

Membership of National Council and all office bearing positions of the Association (with the exception of Company Secretary) are honorary. National Council is supported by the services of an Executive Officer/Company Secretary and a National Administration Office Staff. These positions are salaried.

ANTA practises a policy of consultation with representatives of all stakeholders of traditional medicine and natural therapies, as well as being available to all government and regulatory bodies associated with the professions.

The contact details for ANTA are listed in this document and persons wishing to discuss any matters relevant to the professions of traditional medicine and natural therapies are encouraged to contact the National Administration Office.

ANTA National Council