



Fact sheet

August 2015

Using the title 'acupuncturist'

Background

Osteopaths are regulated by the Osteopathy Board of Australia under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (**National Law**).

Under the National Law, a National Board, including the Osteopathy Board of Australia, **may** endorse the registration of a registered health practitioner qualified to practise as an acupuncturist **if**:

- the practitioner has an approved qualification or what the Board considers a substantially equivalent qualification, and
- the practitioner complies with an approved registration standard.

Endorsement of registration for osteopaths

The Osteopathy Board of Australia (the National Board) is not planning at this time to develop a pathway for the endorsement of the registration of osteopaths to use the title 'acupuncturist'.

What this means for osteopaths

- Osteopaths who wish to use the title 'acupuncturist' must apply for registration with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.
- Osteopaths must be careful not to breach the requirements of the National Law in relation to using the title acupuncturist and/or holding out as an acupuncturist.

Using/taking the title 'Acupuncturist'

Since 1 July 2012, the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia is the responsible Board for registering Chinese medicine practitioners, including acupuncturists. From 1 July 2012, it became an offence under the National Law for osteopaths in Australia to take or use the title 'acupuncturist' if they are not registered with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

Until such time as a registration standard for an endorsement for acupuncture is developed and approved, there is no pathway available with the National Board for osteopaths to take or use the title 'acupuncturist', or to advertise or hold themselves out as 'acupuncturists'. Osteopaths who wish to use this title must apply for registration with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

For more information

- Visit www.osteopathyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)