Re. Chinese Medicine at SSNT

Dear Prospective Chinese Medicine Student,

The Chinese Medicine Program at the Southern School of Natural Therapies has an outstanding reputation for producing high-calibre graduates and clinicians. In order to achieve this goal, we work collaboratively with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA) to ensure that we align our program to the latest professional standards.

The CMBA will publish new education standards for Chinese Medicine this year, and we are now revising our Chinese Medicine program to ensure it aligns with these standards. This will ensure that students graduate to these latest standards. We plan to launch this new program in early 2021.

This new program will be offered by our sister institution Torrens University Australia (Torrens). Torrens is an exciting and innovative new university, focused on students being industry-linked with a strong focus on research and scholarship.

The new Chinese Medicine program will offer students several significant advantages. Situating the program within Torrens University will provide better opportunities for Chinese Medicine research. Chinese Medicine students will also be able to study subjects alongside students enrolled in other Bachelor of Health Science programs at Torrens. This University offering also means that, as an approved provider for the Australian Government’s FEE-HELP loan program, the 25% fee-help loan fee (as applied to some higher education programs) does not apply.

The current program offered under Think Education continues to have full accreditation with CMBA but is no longer taking new enrolments.

If you have recently applied for the Chinese Medicine degree program at Think Education, to enable you to begin your studies in Chinese Medicine, you are now encouraged to enrol into the Diploma of Health Sciences at Torrens University. The first year of the diploma includes Chinese Medicine specialised subjects to align with the first year of the new degree program, and which provide a strong foundation to the theory and practice of Chinese Medicine.

Students who graduate from the Torrens Diploma of Health Sciences and successfully complete the specialised Chinese Medicine subjects will be eligible for direct admission to the new Torrens University Bachelor of Health Science (Chinese Medicine). One year of full-time study in the Torrens Diploma of Health Sciences, will achieve one year of full-time credit towards the Chinese Medicine Degree.

Students completing the diploma will also benefit from a qualification that supports the possibility of work in a health-related area while continuing their degree studies. This
pathway is already working well across our suite of complementary health science courses at Torrens.

Torrens University Australia is a self-accrediting higher education provider. The new Bachelor of Health Science (Chinese Medicine) will be submitted for accreditation by the Torrens Academic Board for approval, with the intention to begin taking enrolments in early 2021. In addition to the internal accreditation processes, external accreditation by the CMBA will be sought in all three divisions of Chinese medicine practice; Acupuncture, Chinese Herbal Dispensing; and Chinese Medicine Practice. This process of accreditation is expected to take about 18 months. It is anticipated that full CMBA accreditation will be gained by late 2021.

In light of our reputation and strong history of successful accreditation with the CMBA, we are confident that this will result in a favourable outcome. We will work closely with the CMBA to ensure our program meets their requirements and is of the highest standards. This is a time to look confidently ahead for the bright future of Chinese Medicine as we launch a new degree in the University sector.

Kind regards,

Tim Trevail
Program Director, Physical Health