

Pathway to Accreditation for Reiki Australia Practitioners

By Wendy Watson and Sharron Mackison, Directors

Traditionally, the student's initiating Reiki Master is their mentor in the personal spiritual practice of Reiki. Reiki has organically spread worldwide and has not traditionally been regulated as a health practice. Who, then does the practitioner turn to for professional guidance and support to meet basic health industry standards?

Reiki Australia has always been a custodian of Reiki as a personal spiritual practice and healing art, this means honoring the diversity of genuine Reiki lineages and practices traceable to Mikao Usui and protecting the place of masters to teach in the oral tradition as they were taught, and ensuring a place for all students of Reiki

In Reiki Australia's consultation and negotiations about Reiki treatment practitioner standards, and in submissions to government authorities, we have been very clear that the role of the Reiki Master is to mentor their students in the tradition of the personal spiritual practice. When Masters teach Reiki I, Reiki II classes and enter into a Master candidate relationship, it is not to provide training in the skills required for treatment practitioners who give Reiki treatments in a public setting.

Increasingly, Reiki practitioners offering treatments to the public are seen as health care providers. Reiki practitioners frequently take enquiries from the public that goes something like: "I have high blood pressure. Can Reiki help me?" in this kind of enquiry the caller is asking about the benefits of Reiki as a health treatment option, and indicates they consider the Reiki practitioner to be a health care provider.

The number of people consulting complementary health practitioners has increased 50 per cent in the last decade.¹ And this means the attention of health authorities, who are responsible for protecting the interests and safety of consumers, has also significantly increased.

At the 2003 National Reiki Conference, the authors presented a paper 'Government moves to Regulate'. This was to bring the delegation up to date about specific initiatives that were underway to regulate the conduct of complementary health practitioners. Since then, many of these initiatives have been rolled out. Below are those that significantly impact Reiki practitioners

~ In August 2008 the NSW Department of Health introduced a *Code of Conduct for Unregistered Health Practitioners*, and while these standards and requirements apply to all Reiki practitioners who are currently working in public settings in NSW, we anticipate that it is only a matter of time until the Codes are adopted by the other states.

Please refer to the following website for a copy of these codes

[http://www.hccc.nsw.gov.au/html/Code Contact Unregistered page.htm](http://www.hccc.nsw.gov.au/html/Code%20Contact%20Unregistered%20page.htm)

Or email contact@reikiaustralia.com.au

~ The Government has recently introduced *Private Health Accreditation Rules 2008* which relate to Private Health Insurance rebates by complementary health practitioners. Reiki Australia is currently in discussions with authorities on this matter.

The directors of Reiki Australia have long understood these moves towards regulation. Between 2001 and 2005 our association pioneered industry consultation, and drafted qualifications for endorsement within the National Training System. Unfortunately, these qualifications did not proceed, due to misunderstandings in the community.

Reiki Australia is again in the process of addressing treatment practitioner standards. Whilst we continue to engage with other stakeholders, and remain optimistic that the community will reach agreement on a national standard, our immediate priority is the design of an achievable pathway for our own practitioners.

Reiki Australia is introducing the *Certificate for Professional Reiki Treatment Practice*. This provides practitioners an opportunity to gain a basic level of education.

At the forthcoming Conference, October 23rd-25th, all delegates will have the opportunity to complete the first module of the *Certificate for Professional Reiki Treatment Practice*, as a *no cost bonus*. This is your opportunity to get informed, get skilled and get started on the road to upgrading your membership level to *Accredited Reiki treatment practitioner*. Even if you don't have a pressing need to upgrade, you will enjoy this interactive and informative workshop. Every conference delegate, whether they are a Reiki Australia member or not, is welcome to attend this *FREE* workshop: *Listening, Paraphrasing and Referring clients*. Refer to the events section on the Reiki Australia website or to your conference brochure for more information.

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