

Article Reiki Australia newsletter 'The Journey' 080505

KEEPING YOU POSTED ABOUT THE ROLE OF REIKI AUSTRALIA

The following article has been written to assist Reiki Australia members to understand more about our role in accreditation of Reiki treatment practitioners in Australia. This news bulletin seeks to bring our members, especially new members, up to date with the history and the context of the project. We ask you to share this information within your Reiki circles, Reiki share groups and with your students, so as to draw forth any remaining questions.

A little bit of history about the consultation process...

The inaugural National Reiki Conference 2001 was organised to give relevant information to the Australian Reiki community so that an informed decision could be made about whether or not to establish a national standard for Reiki Treatment practitioners. The delegation unanimously agreed to 'to develop a minimum set of national standards' and to form a 'national self-regulating body'.

A well designed process of consultation was conducted to gather focused input from the Australian Reiki community's area of expertise – the spiritual practice and healing art of Reiki as expressed in Reiki treatments: This feedback about the qualities and skills that Reiki treatment practitioners need in order to offer treatments in community and clinical facilities has become the foundation for the development of competencies –

What is being accredited?

The process of accreditation only applies to standards for practitioners who are offering Reiki treatments to the public; they do not apply to Masters teaching Reiki as a healing art and spiritual practice to their students

Who will own the national standard?

Any national standard for Complementary and Alternative health that is endorsed by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) is publicly owned. Even though Reiki Australia is developing the standard, RA will not own the competencies that are developed.

Why is a national standard for Reiki treatment practice being developed?

Global concerns

There is a global movement towards development of standards for Reiki treatment practitioners. Many countries are addressing the same concerns as the Australian Reiki community; each is at a different stage of progress. The UK Reiki Regulatory Working group have had their competencies for Reiki treatment practice on the Skills for Health website inviting practitioner feedback since September 2004. www.skillsforhealth.org.uk → go to projects in development and click on 'Reiki'. Reiki International has increasingly featured articles on the application of Reiki in a Complementary Therapy context www.ReikiMagazine.com Reiki Australia representatives have participated in international conferences in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

National Concerns

With the growing use of CAH by the Australian public, the Health Ministers have a responsibility for the safe delivery of healthcare.

In Australia, in July 1998 the Australian Health Ministers Conference issued a directive based on their agreement for the need to develop minimum standards for conduct and

safety within the Complementary and Alternative Health (CAH) industry. Reiki was explicitly included as a complementary therapy in the 2002 Discussion Paper on Regulation of Complementary Health.

There is a growing demand for Reiki treatments which can not be filled because there is no standards by which to create policies for delivering Reiki treatments into healthcare and community settings. There is also a desire to further Reiki research. Again, lack of a standard is a barrier to conducting standardised research trials and gaining sponsorship for research.

Why is National Consultation important?

Widespread consultation is the process of gathering material from a wide variety of relevant sources; these industry stakeholders include Reiki practitioners, research facilities and worksites, prospective employers, lineage bearers and founders.

Widespread consultation must be an open, public process and is a pre-requisite to any claim of representation of an industry group – In our case the Australian Reiki treatment industry.

How successful has Reiki Australia's process of consultation been?

Reiki Australia has been delighted with the level of participation by the Australian Reiki community in the consultative process. While many thousands of Australians are initiated into Reiki for their own personal healing and spiritual development, relatively few are drawn to public treatment practice as a vocation. Local participation levels have sometimes exceeded that of international conventions on the public practice of Reiki. Reiki Australia also conducted the first meeting of known Australian Reiki organisations. The full history of the process of consultation will soon be available on Reiki Australia's website

Outcomes from the national consultation process have informed Reiki Australia's voice :

1. Preservation of Reiki as a spiritual practice and healing art is paramount
2. Lay practice i.e. Reiki as a spiritual practice and healing art is the foundation of professional practice
4. Reiki I, Reiki II and Master initiations and training belong in the Lay practice and are not included as part of vocational training for Reiki treatment practitioners;
5. Vocational training for Reiki treatment practitioners must embody the spiritual practice and healing art of Reiki; and
6. Specialised vocational training is necessary to suitably prepare Reiki treatment practitioners to work in a variety of health and community settings

Dialogue with government:

In early 2001 Reiki Australia entered into dialogue with government agency that is responsible for developing standards for Complementary and Alternative Health (CAH). However, dialogue with the Reiki community began some years prior to Reiki Australia's inception with a government scoping exercise undertaken in 1998 to assess the entire CAH industry. Within Reiki Australia's current operational teams, we are blessed to have a number of those who were involved in these very early discussions who reported the need for standards.

Reiki Australia's work behind the scenes

The widespread consultation process has provided information for Reiki Australia to respond promptly to a number of public documents.

1. Response to Regulation of Complementary Health Practitioners – Discussion Paper (2002)

Reiki Australia emphatically disputed the Discussion Paper definition of Reiki as an “Eastern Massage technique” and refuted the “five goals of a Reiki treatment”. RA also proposed that the best model for regulation of Reiki treatment practitioners was voluntary self regulation.

2. Response to the SA application for accreditation Certificate IV in Natural Health Management and Practice (Reiki)

Reiki Australia's fundamental objection was to the inclusion of Reiki initiation and training in this proposed private qualification. The clear position of the Australian Reiki community is that Reiki training is a student's journey of spiritual practice and healing art and is not a vocational training.

3. Submission to the Review of the Health Training Package HLT02

Reiki Australia lodged an extensive submission for the inclusion of a Reiki treatment practitioner qualification in the Health Training Package. This submission has been favourably received and, in addition, Reiki Australia's credibility and methodology has been acknowledged by its appointment to the Industry Reference Group for Complementary and Alternative Health.

Stay tuned for the next exciting episode

You are most welcome to contact the office should you have any questions about Reiki Australia.