

Reasons for Recognition

Former President of the New Zealand Register of Acupuncturists Inc (NZRA), Mr Tim Haiselden has played a key role in the development of the Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) profession in New Zealand for the last twenty seven years. Without a doubt his exceptional leadership and extensive voluntary work deserve special recognition.

After completing his training in both Thailand and England, Tim began practising as an acupuncturist in 1976. He became a member of the NZRA in 1983. One of the very earliest fully trained acupuncturists in Wellington, Tim continues to run a very busy practice in Karori, Wellington.

Tim served as President of the NZRA from 1989 until 1991. From 1992 until 2007 he continued to serve on the NZRA Council as Chair of the NZRA Statutory Regulation committee.

The profession has grown greatly in recent years, largely building on the base of many hours of hard work in those early days by Tim Haiselden and his partner Lesley. Tim has played a vital role in many areas of the development of our profession including Statutory Regulation, Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), and New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA), well as professional development and international relations.

His selfless contribution and tireless dedication has both directly and indirectly resulted in:

- The initial approval by the Minister of Health for the Acupuncture profession to be included under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.
- Recognition by ACC of Acupuncturists as Treatment Providers in 1990.
- The development of the National Diploma of Acupuncture approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority in 1998.
- The establishment of links with international acupuncture and TCM organisations.

1. **Statutory Regulation.** The NZRA has long held that statutory regulation of the profession is necessary in order to deliver acupuncture and TCM health services in a safe and efficacious manner for the general public of New Zealand.

As Chair of the Statutory Regulation committee for fifteen years, Tim Haiselden spent many hundreds of hours writing submissions, providing comprehensive detail as to why consumers needed this basic right of protection. In this time he advised successive NZRA Presidents and NZRA Council members on ways to proceed, held meetings with various Ministry of Health officials, lobbied politicians across the spectrum and sought legal advice on behalf on NZRA.

Finally, in July 2007 the Minister of Health, Hon Pete Hodgson approved acupuncture as an “additional profession for inclusion in the scope of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.” NZRA has subsequently applied to the Minister of Health to have Chinese Medicine (incorporating both acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine) included under the Act, rather than acupuncture alone.

2. **ACC:** Tim Haiselden’s efforts were successful in enabling members of the public to have acupuncture treatment covered by ACC. In 1990 the title, "acupuncturist" was conferred to members of NZRA in legislation as Treatment Providers under **Accident Compensation (Referred Treatment Costs) Regulations 1990/242**. In latter years, Tim’s involvement on legal

issues on behalf of NZRA was vital in securing continuing access to services provided by fully trained Acupuncturists.

3. NZQA: In June 1991, with Tim's assistance, the NZRA made the initial application to the New Zealand Qualification Authority for the development of Acupuncture qualifications within its framework. With subsequent changes to legislation a new application was again made in August 1992. From this the Acupuncture Advisory Group was formed and National Diploma of Acupuncture (NDA) was registered by NZQA in 1998.

Tim was further involved when the first Bachelor Degree in Health Science (Acupuncture) was developed in 2008. Tim was invited to be a member of the expert panel convened by NZQA to assess the structure and content of the programme. The first students were accepted to begin on the degree programme in 2009.

4. International Relations. On behalf of the NZRA Tim Haiselden established many of the early links with international Acupuncture associations. These links have been maintained and developed to this day. One of those associations was the World Federation of Acupuncture and Moxibustion Societies (WFAS), a non-governmental organisation affiliated to the World Health Organisation. NZRA became a member of WFAS in December 1990. The current NZRA President was elected as Vice President of WFAS in 2009 and another former President is an Executive Committee member of the organisation.

Relations were also established with the American Acupuncture Association of Oriental Medicine (AAAOM), the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) in the USA and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Peoples Republic of China (PRC).

In 1990 Tim accompanied China's "Living Treasure" Ms Jing Erbin around New Zealand on her lecture tour, promoting Acupuncture and TCM to New Zealanders in hospitals and to the public on behalf of the government of the PRC.

With Tim's help in 1996 a reciprocity agreement was established between the NZRA and the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA) allowing transfer of membership across the Tasman. The very strong relationship between NZRA and AACMA continues, with the exchange of guests and speakers to the AGM and Annual Conference of both countries, as well as support on many matters of mutual concern both internationally and specific to each country.

Finally, it should be noted that democratic nature and team structure of the NZRA means that no one member acts in isolation. Many hours of difficult work are undertaken by many people. It is generally agreed, however, that with the determination and hard work of Tim Haiselden, the organisation has been able to continue to grow and develop, thus reaching the outlined milestones.