

Torrens University - TCM education provider in Australia

Dear Madam,

We have read with interest the perspective article entitled “*Traditional and complementary medicine in Australia: Clinical practice, research, education, and regulation*” by Bhuyan *et al.* published in the *International Journal of Ayurveda Research*.^[1] We want to congratulate the authors on their valuable work, but wish to highlight an important omission.

The article provides a review of Australian traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM) education and research. It should be noted, however, in the interests of comprehensive representation and reporting accuracy, that a significant provider, Torrens University Australia (TUA), was not included in the article. Torrens University is Australia’s fastest-growing University, built on the shoulders of leading complementary educational institutions; Southern School of Natural Therapies and Australasian College of Natural Therapies, who have continuously delivered the highest level of T&CM education for over 60 years.^[2] TUA assimilated the Bachelor of Health Science (BHS) clinical degrees in naturopathy, western herbal medicine, clinical nutrition, and Chinese Medicine from 2019.^[3] The University is proud to offer the only BHS (Western Herbal Medicine) course in Australia.

Torrens innovative educational approach is evidenced by the successful development of a home-based Telehealth clinic implemented in response to COVID-19 restrictions.^[4] As part of the University’s social responsibility ethos, a free Telehealth short course was provided to health practitioners to assist successful adaptation of practice to the challenging pandemic environment.^[5] Torrens University contributes to the global profession as an educational member of the World Naturopathic Federation.^[6]

Regarding research, Torrens University offers T&CM discipline-specific higher degrees by research from entry-level Graduate Certificate of Research Studies to Doctorate level research pathways.^[7] The TUA Centre for Healthy Futures focuses on translational health research and welcomes T&CM researchers who aim to find solutions to complex health issues affecting global, community, and individual health.^[8] In 2022, several articles were published by TUA naturopaths^[2,3,9-11] and the center published 18 articles.

The rapidly changing landscape of T&CM education and research requires constant evaluation, review, and discussion. Accurate representation of the T&CM profession is essential to inform Australian regulators and policymakers of contemporary education standards and the contributions of the T&CM profession to advancing impactful health research.

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Conflicts of interest

All authors are academics employed at Torrens University Australia.

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