



# **Organizational Highlights 2023**



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# African Region

- **Naturopathic workforce:** Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- **Countries with naturopathic educational programs:** Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia
- **Countries with naturopathic research centres:** none

Legend: **Red** = Countries with statutory regulation

Underline = Countries with WNF Membership





# Nyarkotey University College of Holistic Medicine & Technology



## Professional Formation

**Year naturopathic training started in your country:** 2016

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** Nyarkotey University College of Holistic Medicine & Technology

**Naturopathic Educational Programs:** Diploma, HND & Bachelor of Technology (BTech)

**Number of naturopathic students:** 100

## Top Successes

- Developed two National Occupational Standards in Naturopathy and Holistic Medicine for training Naturopaths and Naturopathic Physicians.
- Programs approved by the Traditional Medicine Practice Council (TMPC) of the Ministry of Health.
- Graduands to sit for the National Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE)
- Induction Ceremony to be conducted by the TMPC for professionals in the Healthcare system.
- The College was also given clearance by the Ghana Health Service (GHS) to allow Naturopathic students to do their clerkship in the Government Hospitals.
- The first batch of NDs are being trained by Medical Doctors in Government Hospitals.
- Institutional and program accreditation granted by the Commission for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (CTVET)
- The President of the college has been appointed by the Ministry of Health to sit on the Standard and Ethics Committee of the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Practice Council to help develop policies.

## Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

- Funding to help the college secure the final phase of the National accreditation to officially launch the programs.
- The college is also in need of books on Complementary and alternative medicines to help stock the library.
- Naturopathic equipment and apparatuses to help provide clinical training.
- Mannequins to help clinical training
- International lecturers to help provide online education to support the college as pro bono



# Open International College of Naturopathic Medicine (OICNM)



## Professional Formation

**Year naturopathic training started in your country:** 1999

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** The Open International College of Naturopathic Medicine (OICNM)

### **Naturopathic Educational Programs:**

Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine

Diploma in Naturopathy

**Number of naturopathic students:** At least 50

### **Top Successes**

- The growing acceptance of Naturopathy by elites and masses in the country.
- Being an educational member of WNF.

### **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

- Stiff opposition from the orthodox medicine practitioner.
- Adequate resources for training students.
- The passage of the TCAM bill into law and the subsequent full establishment of the Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine Council of Nigeria.
- Quackery and false claims.



# South African Naturopathy Association (SANA)



## **Professional Formation**

In 1982 the Allied Health Professions Act 63 made for provision for naturopathy as a regulated system of Traditional medicine. SANA was subsequently formed in 1996.

## **Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country**

The history of naturopathy in South Africa goes back to the 19th century, where Dutch settlers brought complementary medicines, and a later wave of German settlers brought homeopathic and naturopathic medicines to South Africa. Complementary and alternative (CAM) medicines were declared illegal and unscientific in 1953, and practitioners were formally excluded from the public healthcare system with positive changes occurring again 30 years later in 1982, acknowledging the need for an existence of complementary medicine, including naturopathy as a regulated healthcare profession.

## **Number of practitioners**

There are currently 79 licensed naturopathic doctors in South Africa.

## **National Organization(s)**

South African Naturopathy Association (SANA) is the only official professional association for Naturopathic Doctors in South Africa

## **Number of Regional Organizations**

There is only a national professional association in South Africa.

## **Naturopathic Educational Institutions**

University of the Western Cape was the first local university program, a 5 year, double bachelors degree program (BSc.Health Science, BNat) was started in 2003. Prior to that registered naturopaths were trained overseas or passed a certain skillset criteria, defined by the AHPCSA, in order to be registered.

- Successes include consistent graduation of naturopathic doctors at diagnostic level, accepted graduates are registered with a legislative medical Council and the successful implementation of board exams, clinical and academic.
- Challenges are that the number of graduates are declining, partly due to a break of 4 years where the University did not accept new first year students. The current program is being reformulated and accepting students at first year level again within the next year. Having one University graduating naturopaths places a challenge on graduate numbers.

## **Regulation Status**

The naturopathy profession is governed by the Allied Health Professionals Council of South Africa, a legislated council acting within the national health ministry, and legislating naturopathy, chiropractic, homeopathy, phytotherapy and Chinese medicine.

## **Top Successes in South Africa**

The primary success in South Africa is the achievement of a nationally legislated profession, with defined academic and clinical skillsets, allowing graduates to register with the council, and diagnose and treat patients in accordance with naturopathic principles.

**Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

Next steps would be to produce enough NDs and graduates so the profession can make inroads into contributing to the public health sector. Therefore finding ways to remain relevant from a public health and primary healthcare perspective, and not just private practise, would be a dream next step.

Also working with graduates to create successful practises in South Africa is a need, particularly with multiple CAM modalities existing, as well as unqualified people working in the natural health sector. One of the challenges of being legislated as a professional is that advertising or promotion of self is not permitted (which is the same for medical doctors), however this does create a scenario whereby unqualified people in the sector often have a more prominent pathway to public awareness

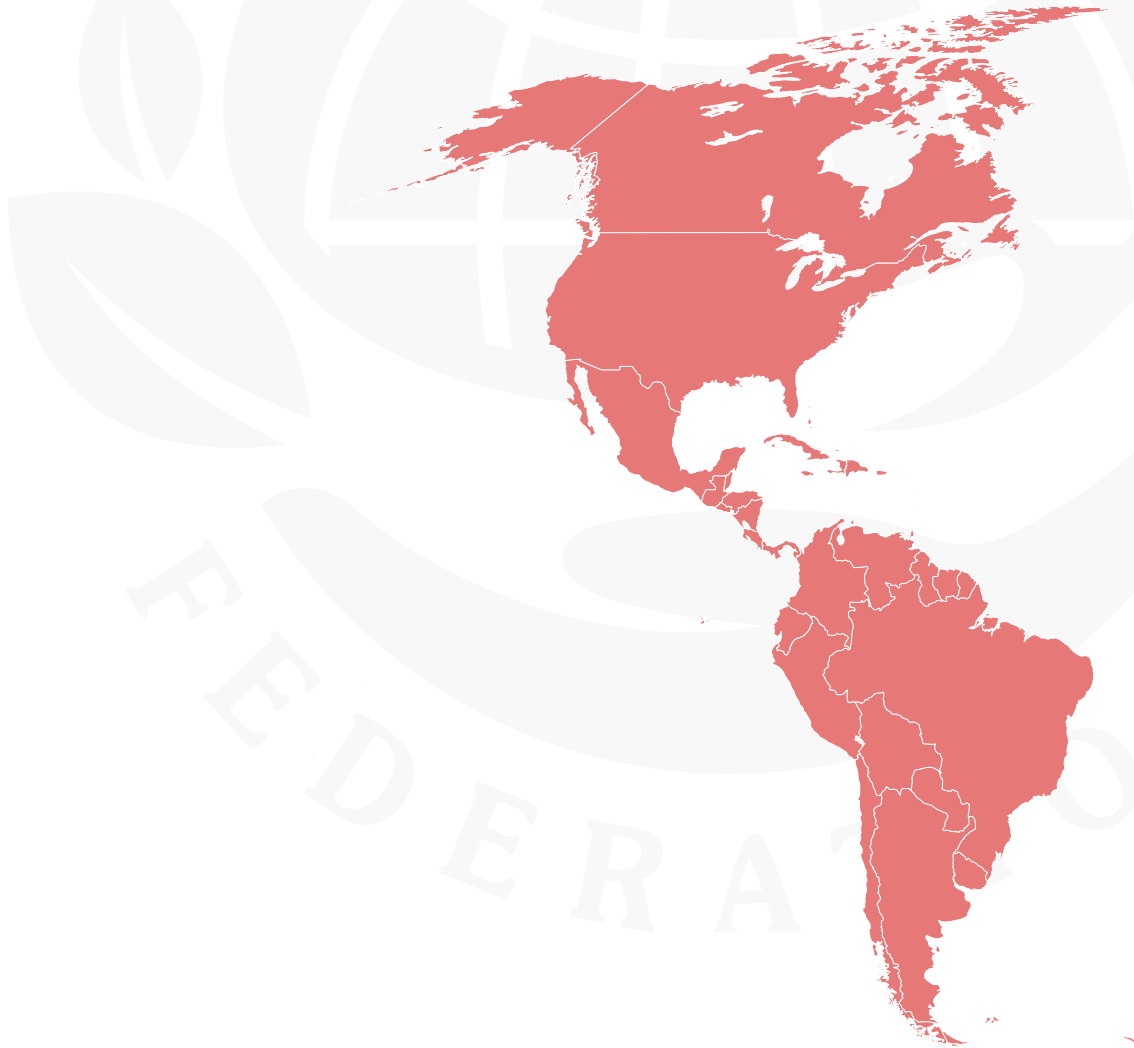


# Region of the Americas

- **Naturopathic Workforce:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Bermuda, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, United States of America, Venezuela, Virgin Islands
- **Countries with naturopathic educational programs:** Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, United States of America, Venezuela, Uruguay
- **Countries with naturopathic research centres:** Canada, United States of America

Legend: **Red** = Countries with statutory regulation

Underline = Countries with WNF Membership





# Alberta Association of Naturopathic Doctors (AAND)



## Information on the Organization

- 250 members - voluntary membership
- approximately 125 NDs in province who do not hold membership with the AAND, but do with the regulator.
- Role is that of support and advocacy for naturopathic doctors in province along with directory for the public.

## Top Successes

- delivery of continuing competency programming (continuing education course)
- Public awareness
- Member news and resources
- Government advocacy (awareness messaging and lobbying for scope of practice changes)

## Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

- Scope of practice changes (regulatory)
- Need for other medical professions to better understand the training and work of naturopathic doctors.
- Government and other stakeholders buy in to the work of naturopathic doctors as an opportunity to improve the overall delivery of health care in the province in an effective and cost efficient manner, ie Collaborative team approach.



# American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP)



**Professional Highlights:** The naturopathic profession in the United States has made significant advances in terms of recognition, research, education, and integration with conventional healthcare – while still retaining our distinct and unique identity as naturopathic doctors (NDs). We have achieved increased professional recognition, with 6 state legislative bodies passing licensure laws in the last 6 years. Our research teams have conducted powerful research, in collaboration with conventional medical schools, validating the safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of naturopathic medicine. This has led to greater integration with conventional medical practitioners, with a growing number of NDs being employed by large healthcare systems, urgent care clinics, hospitals, conventional medical schools, integrative medicine clinics and government agencies. More healthcare insurance companies are covering the services of naturopathic doctors than ever before, including government-funded healthcare plans in some states (Medicaid), indicating a growing acceptance of the naturopathic approach to care as an option increasingly demanded by consumers. The naturopathic profession in the United States is developing areas of expertise, with specialty associations in oncology, pediatrics, endocrinology, gastroenterology, psychology, orthopedic medicine, environmental medicine, naturopathic primary care, and homeopathy. Several of these have evolved to offer advanced training and board certifications. Naturopathic Doctors have become influential educators and consultants in the growing field of conventional medicine that called “integrative” or “functional” medicine – a branch of conventional medicine that could become important allies in gaining further recognition for the profession.

**Professional Formation:** Licensure laws in all states that regulate NDs require a doctoral-level education of 4-6 years of in-residence naturopathic medical school that is accredited by institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

**Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:** Not including roots in traditional Native American medicine, modern American Naturopathy can be traced to beginning in the 1830s - 1860s.

**Number of practitioners:** Approximately 8,000

**Number of Regional Organizations:**

41 out of 50 states have naturopathic state associations.

Naturopathic Educational Institutions:

Bastyr University – 2 campuses

National University of Natural Medicine

Sonoran University of Health Sciences

National University of Health Sciences

**Regulation Status:** 23 states + 3 territories (District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) regulate naturopathic doctors. [Visit here for a complete map.](#) Scope varies, with some states authorized to diagnose and treat, using only traditional naturopathic modalities. Other states authorize a comprehensive scope of practice, including full pharmaceutical prescribing rights, obstetrics, minor surgery, and laboratory and imaging diagnostics.

### **Top Successes**

1. Regulation in multiple states. We have gone from 9 states licensed prior to 2000, to 26 states/territories/ jurisdictions today. This is due to better training of advocates, coordination of messaging, strategies, materials, and technical assistance.
2. Increased regulation has led to greater insurance coverage, more job opportunities in diverse employment settings, and more access to naturopathic doctors.

### **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

1. Regulation of healthcare professions happens at the state level, not nationally. So achieving regulation in all 50 states is a long and difficult process.
2. National government-sponsored healthcare regulations do not recognize naturopathic doctors as an eligible provider type for coverage. These plans are available for seniors 65+ and a few other populations, excluding these populations from being able to access naturopathic care unless they pay privately. Many government programs also follow these national healthcare plan's definitions and regulations, meaning NDs are not included in many national programs.
3. We have many unlicensed states that allow "schools" to operate which do not meet regulatory educational standards. They issue a "diploma" as a "naturopathic doctor" to people who have very limited educational coursework (sometimes just a few weeks). This leads to tremendous confusion about the profession of naturopathic medicine, problems with patient safety, and reputation.
4. The cost of education (and subsequent debt assumed by students in absence of government-sponsored educational programs) is a large liability and limitation in the ability of the field to grow.



# Associação Brasileira de Naturopatia (ABRANA)



## **Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:**

The first college started in 1998. Since the 1980s, we have a record of professionals that called themselves naturopaths working with integrative techniques.

**Number of practitioners:** Around 3.000 naturopaths

## **National Organization(s)**

**ABRANA – Associação Brasileira de Naturopatia** (Brazilian Naturopathic Association): responsible for issues involving professional activity (regulation, guidance for practitioners). Founded in 2004.

**SBNAT – Sociedade Brasileira de Naturopatia** (Brazilian Society of Naturopaths): responsible for the educational quality, researches and scientific events in naturopathy.

**REDE NATU SUS – Rede de Nacional de Naturopatia no Sistema Único de Saúde** (Naturopathy in the Public Health Service): responsible to connect practitioners and students in the Brazilian public health system and create a supervised training internships with the support from the associations.

## **Naturopathic Educational Institutions**

### **In person classes. Private Education:**

Universidade Anhembi Morumbi - São Paulo / SP, Universidade Cruzeiro do Sul, UniSUL – Universidade do Sul de Santa Catarina - Palhoça / SC, UniBH – Centro Universitário de Belo Horizonte - Belo Horizonte / MG, Universidade da Região de Joinville (Univille) - Joinville/SC.

## **Regulation Status**

Law Project in 2012. Already approved by two merit committees: Education and Health. In progress. Currently on the Working Committee. Stopped by ideological issues of political parties (Less Brazilian State and more market regulating professional activities).

## **Top Successes**

- Recognition of baccalaureate courses by the Ministry of Education
- Evaluation of naturopathy courses in maximum grade by the Institute for the Evaluation of Higher Courses, of the Ministry of Education
- Recognition by the Ministry of Labor - professional occupation registration de nº 2263-20

## **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

### **Challenges**

- Regulate the profession, get approved by the National Curricular Guidelines on the National Education Board
- Ensure the quality and continuation of naturopathic training in existing higher education institutions
- Open more baccalaureate courses in public educational institutions to promote access to the population
- Institutional recognition of the naturopathic professional by the Ministry of Health, through infra-legal norms (ordinances and Resolutions) that formalize their insertion with multidisciplinary health teams to work in the public system

### **Next Steps**

- Have a better communication between the states to understand their local necessity and give them support
- Rewrite the law that it will regulate the profession
- Review the National Curriculum Guidelines adding the latest updates of federal agencies on this subject and publish it
- Adapt the occupational registration of Naturopaths (of free training) by the Ministry of Labor as a synonym of Naturologist (higher level)
- Host in Brazil an Assembly from WNF
- Contribute to the Benchmarks of Naturopathy by the WHO
- Compose the Technical Team of the National Policy of Integrative and Complementary Practices of the Ministry of Health
- Have more practitioners acting in the public health system, at the national level

### **Support**

- WNF support for Naturologist professional regulation within the scope of the National Congress
- Support from the WNF for the recognition and approval of the National Curriculum Guidelines for baccalaureate in Naturology by the National Council of Education
- Marketing of the performance of Naturology in Brazil
- Support for continuous improvement of the quality of scientific evidence in Naturopathy and MTCI in Brazil



# Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges



**Year naturopathic training started:** 1901 marks the first naturopathic school – the American School of Naturopathy

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** AANMC Members found [here](#)

**Number of naturopathic students:** Approximately 1700

## Top Successes

1. Graduates from accredited programs have been making significant strides advancing research in naturopathic medicine. They have been involved in various research projects, securing research grants, and publishing their findings, which have had a positive impact on the scientific community.
2. AANMC is proud to have established collaborative partnerships with other organizations and institutions in the healthcare and integrative medicine fields. These partnerships have allowed us to foster interdisciplinary approaches to healthcare and expand the reach of naturopathic medicine, benefiting both practitioners and patients.
3. We have witnessed numerous success stories and testimonials from patients who have received naturopathic care from graduates of accredited programs. These outcomes have had a profound impact on patients' health and well-being, further highlighting the effectiveness of naturopathic approaches.
4. We have been actively advocating for the recognition and integration of naturopathic medicine within the broader healthcare system. Through our efforts, we have achieved significant milestones in policy initiatives, legislative achievements, and collaborations with government agencies, all of which have contributed to the advancement of naturopathic medicine.
5. Naturopathic medicine and our graduates from accredited programs have gained recognition on an international level. We have participated in global health initiatives, collaborated with researchers from around the world, and successfully integrated naturopathic medicine into healthcare systems in other countries.
6. We place a strong emphasis on ongoing education and professional development for naturopathic doctors. Through our initiatives, such as workshops and conferences, we provide practitioners with opportunities to enhance their skills and stay updated with the latest developments in the field.
7. Naturopathic doctors play a vital role in promoting preventive healthcare and addressing public health challenges. Our graduates have been actively involved in promoting healthy lifestyles, disease prevention, and community wellness programs, all of which contribute to the overall well-being of the population.

### **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

1. Increasing legislative recognition will afford our graduates more diverse career and geographic opportunities.
2. While there is a growing shortage of primary care healthcare workers in the US, one of the challenges we face is increasing the availability of employment venues for our graduates. We believe that naturopathic doctors can play a significant role in filling this gap and providing holistic, patient-centered care. Collaborative efforts with healthcare organizations and policymakers are crucial to create more employment opportunities for our graduates and address the primary care shortage.
3. Like many other higher education institutions, we are experiencing a decline in enrollment. This trend is projected to continue and poses challenges not only to naturopathic medical colleges but to all health professions that require higher education as a prerequisite for graduate education. We seek support and innovative strategies from the World Naturopathic Federation to address this issue, attract more students to our programs, and ensure a strong pipeline of future naturopathic doctors.
4. Securing research funding and fostering collaboration with academic institutions and research organizations are critical to advancing the field of naturopathic medicine. We need support and guidance from the World Naturopathic Federation in establishing research networks, accessing funding opportunities, and promoting interdisciplinary research collaborations. By strengthening research in naturopathic medicine, we can enhance the evidence base and further integrate our profession into the broader healthcare system.
5. Integrating naturopathic medicine into interprofessional healthcare teams is an important step in providing comprehensive, patient-centered care. However, this integration may face challenges such as lack of awareness, skepticism, and limited opportunities for collaboration. We seek assistance from the World Naturopathic Federation in promoting interprofessional education, fostering partnerships with other healthcare professions, and advocating for the inclusion of naturopathic doctors in collaborative healthcare settings. Increasing legislative recognition will afford our graduates more diverse career and geographic opportunities.



# Canadian Association of Naturopathic Doctors (CAND)



## Professional Formation

Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country: The practice of modern naturopathic medicine began in Canada in the early 1900's and first regulated in Ontario under the Board of Directors of Drugless Therapy (BDDTN) in 1926.

**Number of practitioners:** Approximately 3,000

**National Organization(s):** Incorporated in 1955, the CAND is the first and only National association representing naturopathic doctors across Canada.

Number of Regional Organizations: There are professional Associations in all 10 Provinces and 3 Territories for a total of 13.

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM) is the accredited naturopathic medical program in Canada with two campuses – Toronto, Ontario and New Westminster, British Columbia.

**Regulation Status:** The practice of naturopathic medicine is fully regulated in 6 Provinces and 1 Territory. Title protection legislation exists in a 7th Province. All remaining Provinces/Territories are engaged in lobbying for regulation with their respective Health ministries.

## Top Successes

1. The CAND is a recognized and valued stakeholder with the federal government participating in scientific review panels, expert advisory committees and health related consultations. CAND is the only Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Healthcare (TCIH) profession to sit on the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Health Professionals and Allied Health Sector Advisory Table.
2. The CAND was instrumental in the creation of the Natural and non – Pharmaceutical Health Products Directorate of Health Canada (NNHPD) and the development of the Natural Health Product Regulations (NHPR). The first Director General of the NNHPD was a naturopathic doctor and NDs continue to be employed in various positions with the NNHPD and Health Canada. The CAND sits as a member of the NNHPD Technical Advisory Working Group.
3. The CAND obtained GST/HST (tax) exemption for the services provided by qualified naturopathic doctors.
4. The CAND's advocacy, engagement and education with the insurance industry has resulted in coverage of naturopathic services by all third party insurance providers in Canada.
5. In 2021 the CAND launched its peer reviewed, indexed, online journal, the CANDJ. The CANDJ's mission is to connect the evidence – informed best practices of the naturopathic profession to Members, health care practitioners, health care stakeholders, government and the general public. It has global readership and is the first naturopathic journal to our knowledge to adopt editorial policies and update its guidelines to recognize the inherent rights to self –determination of Indigenous Peoples.
6. Recently we obtained recognition of naturopathic doctors as approved health care professionals by Veterans Affairs Canada resulting in coverage by the government of naturopathic services for Veterans.
7. Working with various Indigenous Communities resulted in the passing of a Resolution at the Chiefs of Ontario Assembly requesting the federal government cover naturopathic services for Indigenous Peoples under the Government Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NHIB).

### **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

1. Qualified vs non qualified NDs continues to cause concern and confusion for the government, public and insurance companies. While a major focus for the CAND is providing information on the education, training and regulation of qualified naturopathic doctors we expect the issue will continue until the remaining Provinces and Territories have legislated Regulation.
2. NDs in jurisdictions that have prescribing authority are not able to prescribe some substances such as Testosterone and Cannabis as NDs are not listed as practitioners under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA). The CAND has partnered with one of the prescribing provinces to advocate for adding NDs to the CDSA practitioners list.
3. The CAND is engaged in a fulsome campaign against the governments proposed fee increases for natural health products that will result in prohibitive price increases and the potential loss of products and companies from the Canada market.
4. We will continue to advocate for increased coverage for Veterans and, coverage for Indigenous Peoples under the NIHB program.



# Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM)



**Professional Formation:** A pioneer in Canadian naturopathic education, the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine first opened its doors in 1978 (as the Ontario College of Naturopathic Medicine in Kitchener). By 1983 the College was offering Canada's first four-year, full-time professional program in naturopathic medicine. In 1984, CCNM relocated to Toronto, where it has continued to grow, educating students from across Canada and around the world. CCNM's 4.3-acre Toronto campus on the subway line includes an on-site 202-bed residence, modern classrooms, a well-equipped library, a 240-seat lecture theatre, a healthy-foods cafeteria and a bookstore/dispensary. The campus is also home to the Robert Schad Naturopathic Clinic, Canada's largest naturopathic teaching clinic.

2021, the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine amalgamated with CCNM and as a pan Canadian institution the College now offers naturopathic education on two campuses: The CCNM – Toronto Campus in the Toronto area, and the CCNM – Boucher Campus in Metro Vancouver region. The CCNM – Boucher Campus is surrounded by a thriving arts community, festivals, and a network of parks and trails to explore. The campus is located at the Columbia Skytrain station, with downtown Vancouver only a 30-minute ride away. The campus is home to the Boucher Naturopathic Medical Clinic.

In Ontario, the program at the CCNM – Toronto Campus is offered under the written consent of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and in British Columbia, the CCNM – Boucher Campus offers the program under the Private Training Institutions Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training (PTIB) and is EQA designated by the Province of BC Education Quality Assurance (EQA). The College is accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME), the accrediting agency for naturopathic colleges and programs in Canada and the United States

**Year naturopathic training started in your country:** 1978

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions: 2 campuses:**

- Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine – Toronto campus, Ontario
- CCNM - Boucher Campus, British Columbia

## **Naturopathic Educational Programs**

The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine (CCNM) is Canada's premier institution for education and research in naturopathic medicine. CCNM offers a rigorous four-year, full-time naturopathic program on two campuses in Canada. Also, it offers prerequisite science courses and robust continuing education programming.

## **Number of naturopathic students**

- Current Full-Time Equivalent (as of September 2022) – Toronto Campus- approximately 431
- Current Full-Time Equivalent (as of September 2022) – Boucher Campus- approximately 140
- Graduates both campuses: Approximately 3,600

### **Top Successes/Overview**

- Accordingly, CCNM's program standards are held in high regard: they ensure that the education and training students receive equips them to practice the full scope of naturopathic medicine in the province of Ontario, the province of British Columbia and other regulated and licensed jurisdictions across North America. The program is broadly composed of several main areas of study: biomedical sciences, clinical sciences, the art and practice of naturopathic medicine, patient-centred integrated studies, clinical education and naturopathic therapeutics. The CNME accreditation enables CCNM students to write the exams required for licensure in Canadian and US regulated jurisdictions.
- CCNM offers the first-ever naturopathic medicine bridge delivery stream for international medical graduates (IMGs) at our Toronto Campus. The IMG bridge delivery enables foreign-trained medical doctors living in Canada to further their health care careers as naturopathic doctors. Graduates receive the Doctor of Naturopathy degree. The six-term curriculum incorporates all of the competencies of the four-year naturopathic medical program and acknowledges previous medical education and experience. Required courses are compressed into a 24-month schedule.
- CCNM is a research leader in advancing our understanding of complementary and naturopathic medicine as a contributor to a sustainable health-care system. CCNM is progressing its research in key areas such as: cardiovascular disease, mental health, family and children's health, digestive disorders, pain management and integrative oncology.

### **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

N/A



# Naturopathic Education and Research Consortium (NERC)

**NATUROPATHIC**  
*Education & Research*  
CONSORTIUM

## **Information on the Organization**

NERC was started in 2005 by Drs. Tori Hudson, ND and Margaret Beeson, ND to create community based residency programs with seasoned Naturopathic doctors. We have established 20 clinical residency sites in the US & Canada and have garnered funding for partial salaries for over 100 residents, since 2005. The ND graduates from the fully accredited North American medical school complete 2-3 residencies and become associates or start/join practices in their communities.

## **Top Successes**

We are able to establish 1-2 new community based residency sites yearly

In 2022 we partnered with the Institute for Naturopathic Medicine(ICM) and Dr Arvin Jenab, ND, University California Irvine to host a 3 series Residency Supervisor training for the residency directors of NERC & ICM

## **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

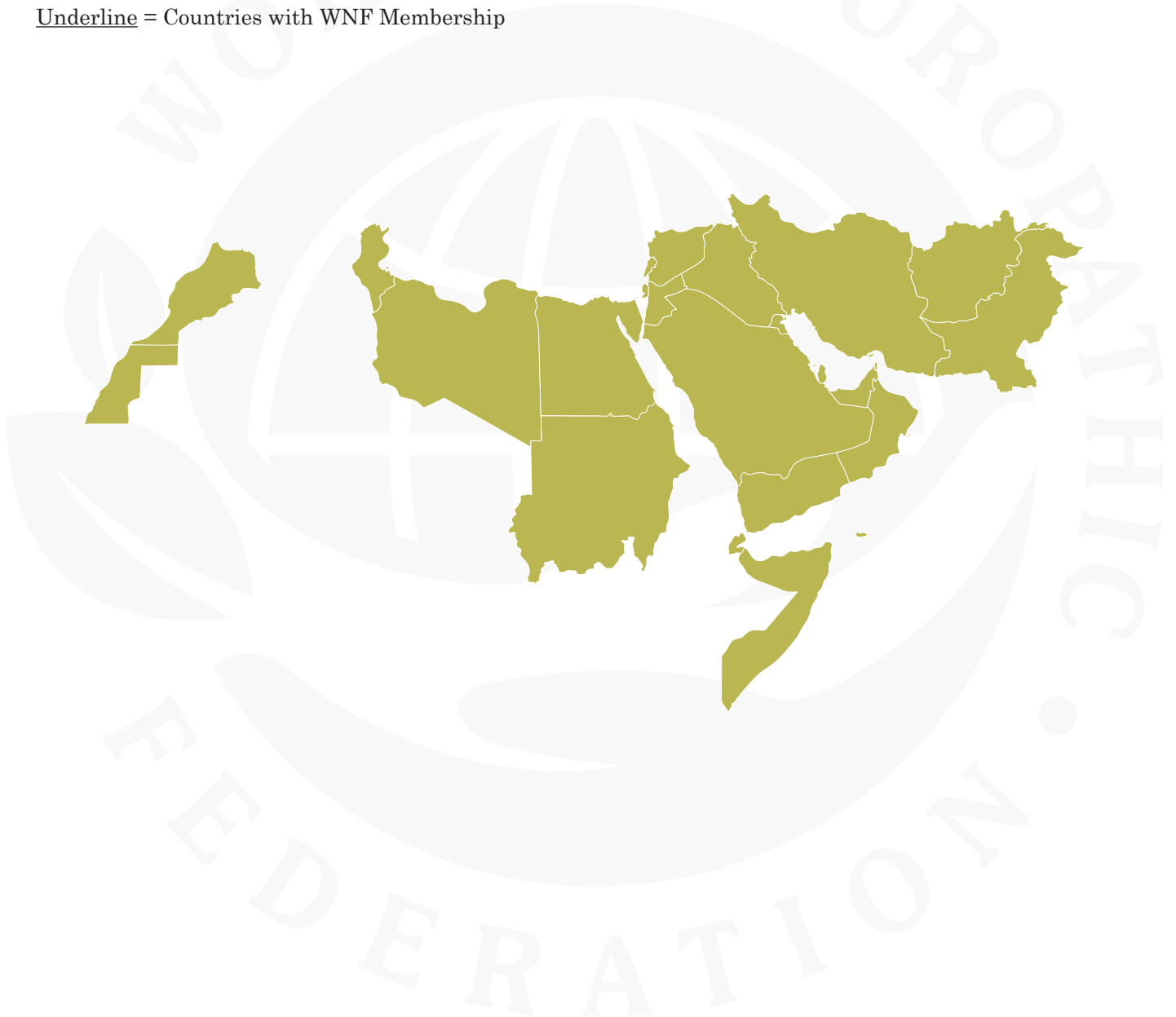
Over the next 3 months we are meeting with a North American profession-wide contingency to investigate establishing a platform to create residencies for all the North American Naturopathic Medical School graduates.

# Eastern Mediterranean Region

- **Naturopathic Workforce:** Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, **Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates**
- **Countries with naturopathic educational programs:** none
- **Countries with naturopathic research centres:** none

Legend: **Red** = Countries with statutory regulation

Underline = Countries with WNF Membership



# Notes

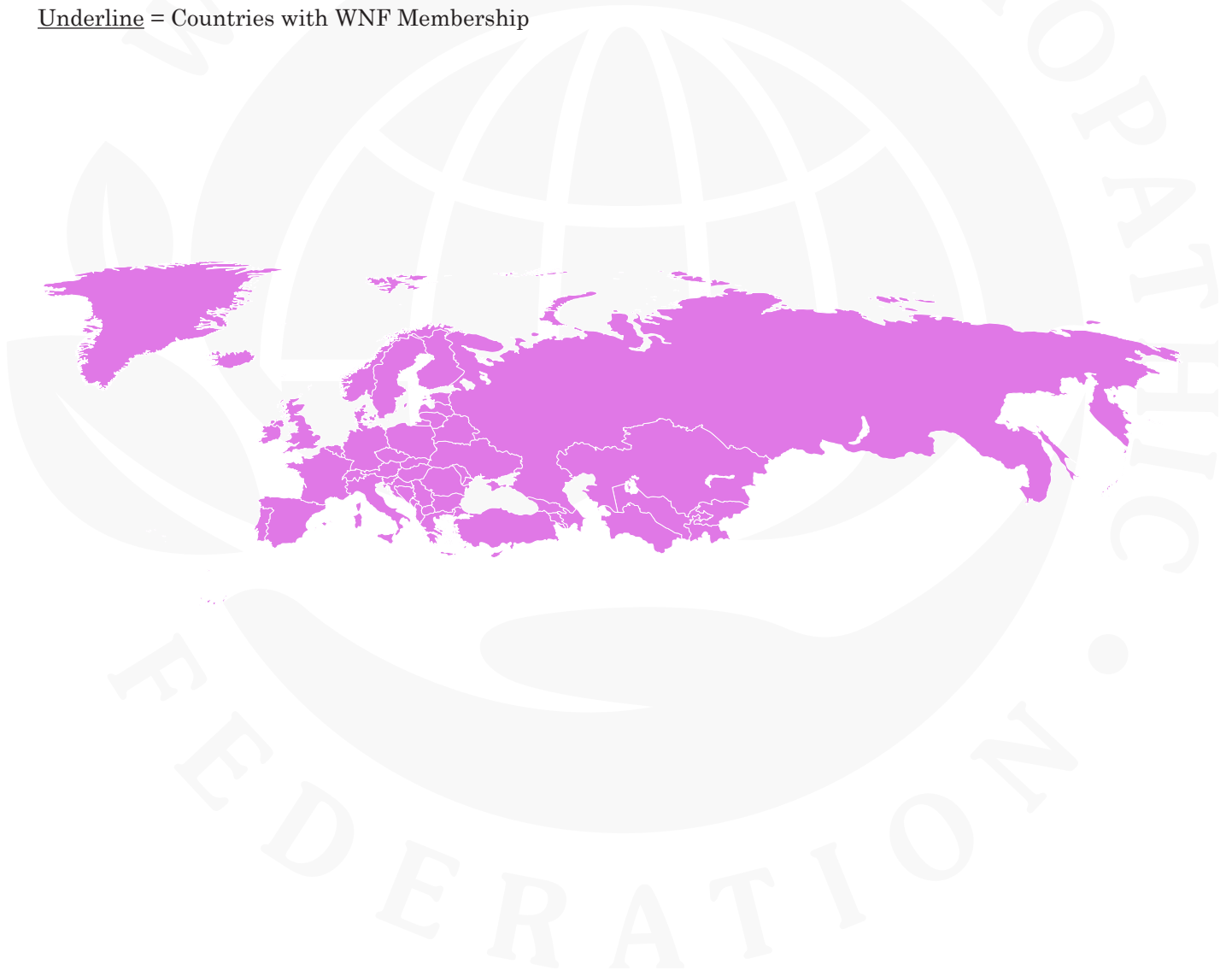


# European Region

- **Naturopathic Workforce:** **Albania**, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, **Cyprus**, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, **Germany**, Greece, Hungary, **Iceland**, Ireland, Israel, Italy, **Liechtenstein**, Luxembourg, Norway, Netherlands, **Portugal**, **Romania**, **Russia**, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, **Switzerland**, Ukraine, United Kingdom
- **Countries with naturopathic educational programs:** Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom
- **Countries with naturopathic research centres:** Switzerland, Norway

Legend: **Red** = Countries with statutory regulation

Underline = Countries with WNF Membership





# Association Suisse des Naturopathes Fédéraux Diplômés (ASNFD)



## Professional Formation

Naturopath with Federal Diploma

**Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:** 1970 Officially recognized in 2009.

**Number of practitioners:** 1171 as per NAREG

**National Organization(s):** ASNFD only for the Naturopaths with Federal Diploma  
OrTraMa, (other organizations accept non Federal and Federal) ASCA, APTN, RME, NVS

**Number of Regional Organizations:**

## Naturopathic Educational Institutions

Ecole de Naturopathie MTE, EPSN, Agape, Centro Professionale Sociosanitario, C.S.F.V., ESSR – Ecole de Santé de Suisse Romande, GSDS - Gesundheitsschule der Schweiz, European Institute of Vedic Studies, EIVS GmbH, Heilpraktikerschule Luzern HPS, Medicus AG – Fachschule für Naturheilkunde, Paracelsus Schulen GmbH, Biomedica GmbH, Bio-Medica Fachschule, Chiway AG Akademie, Heilpraktikerschule Luzern HPS, HWS Huber Widemann Schule AG, Akademie für Naturheilkunde, I.E.A.T.C. Suisse, Institut Huaxia, Paracelsus Schulen GmbH, Paramed Akademie AG, SAKE Bildungszentrum AG, ScuolaTao CH, TCM Schule Basel, Akademie QuintaMed GmbH, Amarilys, Bodyfeet AG, Epidaure, Esclarmonde, La Mandorle, Ecole Suisse de Naturopathie

**Regulation Status:** URI, Appenzell – Working license & Prescription Medication

## Top Successes

ASNFD worked with the Valais canton to obtain the working licence for the Naturopaths with Federal diploma.

**Challenges:** That all the cantons accept to deliver the working license with the right to prescribe medicines.

**Next Steps:** Th A vote where a State Councillor validates the rights to prescribe the medicines to the patients

**Help Needed:** Yes



## EPSN Sàrl/Navi (entity of EPSN Sàrl) (cAH)

Navi

### Information on the Organization

The cAH, a privately-owned company accredited at the Swiss federal level, was born from the expansion of the first naturopathic school created in French-speaking Switzerland (Lausanne, VD) in 1992 by André Henzelin. In 2015, his grand-son Julien took over the Ecole Professionnelle Supérieure de Naturopathie (EPSN) which is now embedded into a 3-pillar professionalizing center:

- **Education:** train health professionals to become naturopaths in Traditional European Medicine, Ayurvedic Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Homeopathy, and prepare them to obtain the Swiss federal diploma in these 4 disciplines (+4,000 hours)
- **Clinic:** federate a community that actively embodies, nurtures and explores good lifestyle practices - based on the “lifestyle laboratory” approach of its naturopathic consultations, spaces, wellness services and specific initiatives for citizens
- **Research:** advance scientific knowledge on traditional, complementary medicines and integrative health, in order to drive these professions and practices forward and foster the coexistence of all medical systems

### Top Successes

- Only center in Switzerland to gather under the same roof these 3 pillars and the 4 naturopathic disciplines.
- Highest success rate at federal exams among all French-speaking Swiss candidates.

### Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

- Need support to integrate TCIM professions and practices into the Swiss healthcare system.
- Need support to build research capacities.



# Fédération Française des écoles de Naturopathie (LaFENA)



**Professional Formation:** Fédération Française de naturopathie

**Year naturopathic training started in your country:** in general September and January

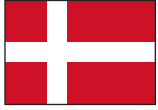
**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** just members of la FENA : Academie de Vitalopathie/ Isupnat/  
Institut Hildegarde/Anindra/Univers Dargère

**Naturopathic Educational Programs:** Praticien en naturopathie (1800 heures effectives)

**Number of naturopathic students:** at least 1000 in 2022

**Top Successes**

**Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**



## Information on the Organization

- 36 members (voluntary membership)
- Membership association; not a regulatory College
- Role is that of support and advocacy for naturopathic therapists in Denmark along with directory for the public of registered naturopathic and homeopathic therapists.

## Top Successes

- Delivery of Continuing Competency Programming (Continuing Education)
- Public Awareness
- Member News and Resources
- Government Advocacy (awareness messaging and lobbying for scope of practice changes)

## Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

- Scope of Practice changes (regulatory)
- Other medical professions better understanding of the training and work of naturopathic doctors
- Government and other stakeholder buy in to the work of naturopathic doctors as an opportunity to improve the overall delivery of Health care in the province in an effective and cost efficient manner, ie Collaborative team approach.



**Professional Formation:** Our professional formation is biological and medical with following education in Naturopathy, Counseling and Coaching

**Year naturopathic training started in your country:** In Italy we don't have a precise record about the year in which naturopathy training started, but our institute was established in 2018.

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** Italy has a number of naturopathic training institution, but just few of them respect the present WHO benchmarks for training in naturopathy.

**Naturopathic Educational Programs:** Our complete program will be use as example in the General Assembly discussion about how to increase the amount of hours in the education

**Number of naturopathic students:** we have about 20 students at the moment

### Top Successes

- Our collaboration with the Ordine Professioni Infermieristiche (Nurse Professional Association)
- The result of our students during clinical practice with real clients in our community clinic
- The teacher exchange program with Saeka, the naturopathic school of Erika Brajnik

### Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

We struggle to enhance the hours amount in a Country without a regulation. Our main challenge is now to increase the number of our students and make people understand the value and the necessity of higher educational standards. We need to find a balance between the necessity of a strong education and the economical survival of our school.



# Norske Naturterapeuters Hovedorganisasjon (NNH)



## Professional Formation

Late autumn 1994 the Norwegian Association of Natural Medicine was established by a merger of Collegium Medicum Norge, Norsk Biopatforbund, Norsk Heilpraktikerforening, Norsk Zoneterapeut Forening and the Norwegian branch of the Scandinavian Acupuncture Foundation. These associations were akin in their aims, objectives and obligations. Later several other groups have merged into NNH, namely Norsk Aromaterapeut Forening, Aromaterapiens Hovedorganisasjon i Norge, Norsk Refleksologisk Forbund, Interesseforeningen for Polaritetsterapi, Norsk helhetsterapiforbund and Norske Naturopaters Landsforbund. Regarding organizational work in the field of alternative medicine, NNH represents continuity since the early 1980's.

## Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country

There is no/or limited tradition for using the term naturopathy in the Nordic countries. Naturläkare (Swedish) and Biopati (Norway and Denmark), are probably the closest you can get concerning the content of the studies compared to naturopathic philosophy, principles and theory. Otherwise you have a great variety in both education and practice concerning different modalities. This creates separate identities with different approaches to health and treatment- strategies.

## Number of practitioners

NNH: 340 therapeutic members.

In the Norwegian register for alternative treatment: 2087.

## Naturopathic Educational Institutions

3 main educational institution with approved by NNH. To of them have recieved official state accreditation under the category of "Higher Professional Degree." In Norway, the organization responsible for ensuring the quality of higher education is NOKUT (<https://www.nokut.no/en/> ). NOKUT accredits tertiary vocational programs, and approval from NOKUT allows students to receive financial support from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund.

## Regulation Status

The Norwegian Directorate of Health and Social Affairs approves practitioner organizations with at least 30 members under a voluntary registration system through the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities. The professional association must have articles that govern and impose professional behaviors, activities and requirements of members including a Code of Ethics and a complaints and disciplinary procedure. Changes in professional association conditions must be reported to the Directorate. Practitioner registration, implemented by the Brønnøysund Register Centre – a governmental body under the Norway Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries which consists of several different national computerized registers – requires that applicants have an approved professional association practitioner number and valid insurance for financial liability.

## Top Successes

- Our main documents: Educational guidelines, Strategic action plan, Professional ethical guidelines and other guidelines concerning different modalities.
- Appointed to the NAFKAM's advisory group. NAFKAM is an official research and information institution assigned and financed by Norwegian health authorities, located at UiT The Arctic University of Norway.

**Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

- Provide a better understanding and clarity that naturopathy is a distinct system of medicine (not a therapy) – which could unite most therapeutic modalities under the professional title Naturopath/ Naturopathic doctor.
- Create arguments why this would be beneficial for the regulatory regime connected to the natural medicine tradition all over the world – instead of one-therapy regulation.
- In a respectful and pedagogical way, inform that there is no contradiction concerning the origin of naturopathy and how this will influence the practice of other therapies/whole medical system.





# Organizacion Colegial Naturopatica (FENACO)



**July 2023:** OCN FENACO Spain has sent to the different political parties that are running for the elections, the proposal for recognition of the Naturopathic professional activity, and to standardize Naturopathic practice that we have been exercising with legal status since 1990. And for this, OCN FENACO has asked the political parties “a clear commitment to the defence of professional and socio-labour rights of the professionals with the title as Naturópata, including the recognition of Naturopathy as a health profession in the health professions regulation Law. This objective has been proposed to both the national and regional administrations so that they commit to regulating naturopathic professionals throughout the state in the same terms in which the other health professions are regulated.

## Professional Formation

Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country: 1922

Number of practitioners: ~7000

National Organization(s): 1

Number of Regional Organizations: 19

Naturopathic Educational Institutions: 6

## Regulation Status

Practicing with legal status since 1990: Members of OCN FENACO are legally practicing Naturopathy within the economic-social structure established by Spanish legislation and within the ministry of labour with all the requirements established.

## Top Successes

- OCN FENACO and the group of professionals in general, have achieved in the Official State Gazette number 236 of October 2, 1990, first issue, the Epigraphs of Economic and Professional Activities of Naturopathy as Group 944 for Naturopathic Services and as Group 841 for the Naturopathic professional.
- In the National Classification of Occupations, the Naturopath is included as a Naturopathic Technician, with the definitive Code number 3129.005.0.
- The National Institute of Statistics includes the definition of Naturopathy in the catalogue of activities CNAE-93 as follows: «Naturopathy consists of assisting people through natural health methods and is classified in CNAE-93 within group 85.1 “healthcare activities” and 85.14 “Other healthcare activities”.
- Preparation of the General Organization Plan of the Naturopathy Educational System (POGSEN) to standardize naturopathic education.
- Malpractice insurance for OCN FENACO members.

## Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

1. Regulation of Naturopathy as a health profession and exempt from VAT
2. Application to the council of universities of the University Degree of Naturopathy (GUN). Requested in 2003



# Organisation de la Médecine Naturelle et de l'Éducation Sanitaire (OMNES)



**Professional Formation:** FENA (Federation of Naturopathy Schools) which recognizes 5 schools, and OMNES recognizes these 5 schools and 10 more (15 schools in total)

**Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:** In the 70's

**Number of practitioners:** between 6000 and 9000

**National Organization(s):** OMNES, SPN (Syndicat des Professionnels de la naturopathie), APHN, APNF, AFNAT

**Number of Regional Organizations:** 0

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** Académie de Vitalopathie, AEMN, Aesculape, ANINDRA, Arbre rouge, Cenatho, CFPPA hyères, CFPPA Mirecourt, CNR, Dargères, Euronature, FLMNE, Institut Hildegardien, ISUPNAT, Naturilys and FENA (Fédération des écoles de naturopathie).

**Regulation Status:** None

## Top Successes

- OMNES is the 1st naturopathic institution created in France
- 1830 members
- Accompaniment of naturopaths and services: charter of ethics, professional insurance, consumer mediation...
- creation of the AFNOR standard for naturopathy (in progress)
- certifies schools (15 schools) with 1200h educational program
- offers continuing education

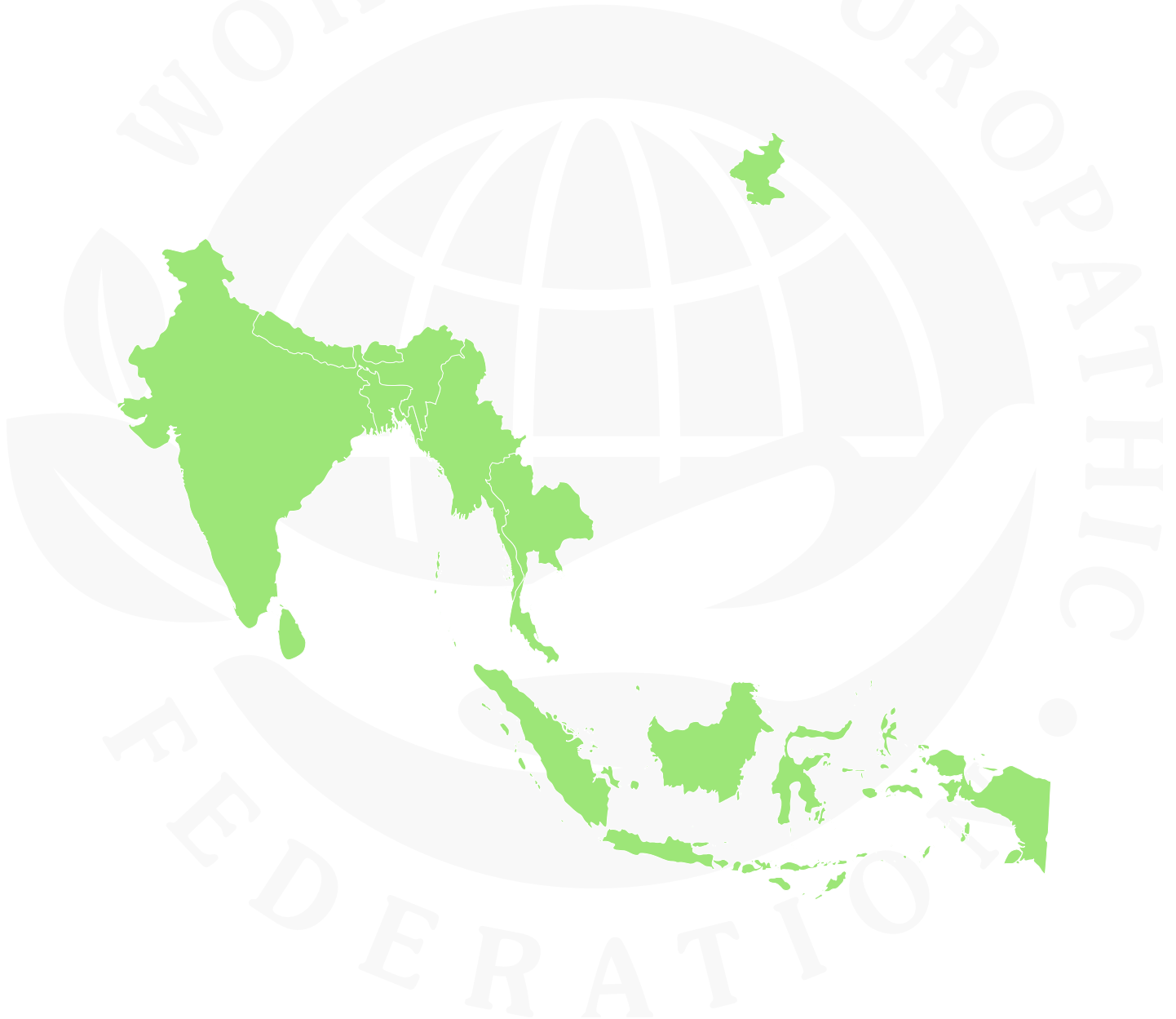
## Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

- to finish AFNOR standard for naturopathy
- state recognition of naturopathy: As naturopathy is not regulated in France today, anyone can call themselves a naturopath. Furthermore, with COVID-19 and lockdown measures, distance naturopathy training offerings have surged. In the absence of regulation, these training organizations provide low-quality education. Consequently, individuals labeled as “naturopaths,” whether from these subpar courses or without any training, are detrimental to the reputation of the profession. Naturopathy remains misunderstood by the media and the government, despite our efforts at raising awareness.
- Working with our communication agency to help raise awareness of OMNES and its activities.
- Establishing a research force and leveraging existing scientific articles to bolster evidence through science and advance research in naturopathy. However, conducting research remains highly challenging without public funding, as the government has not yet recognized naturopathy.
- Currently, the French government is taking measures to regulate unconventional healthcare practices. The government has thus established a committee comprising both proponents and opponents of the use of non-conventional techniques. We have applied to become part of this committee; however, as of the time of writing, we have not received a response. While the government intends to partially regulate certain professions, the National Medical Council committee is against it. According to this committee of doctors, which holds significant influence over healthcare decisions in France, only scientifically proven practices are considered reliable. As a result, the committee has prohibited medical faculties from teaching non-science-backed healing practices such as naturopathy, sophrology, aromatherapy, reflexology, etc. Osteopathy is the only discipline tolerated, but with limited scope of practice.

# South-East Asia Region

- **Naturopathic Workforce:** India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- **Countries with naturopathic educational programs:** India, Nepal
- **Countries with naturopathic research centres:** India, Nepal

Legend: **Red** = Countries with statutory regulation  
Underline = Countries with WNF Membership





# Integrated Association of Naturopaths of Hong Kong (IANHK)



**Professional Formation:** The naturopathic profession in Hong Kong is quite new.

**Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:** 1993

**Number of practitioners:** 12

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** none at this time.

**Regulation Status:** Not regulated.

## Top Successes

- Officially recognized as an association in Hong Kong.
- Included in the AR study for small professions even though it is not going ahead.
- We meet regularly.
- Reasonably well respected in Hong Kong even though there are so few of us.

## Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

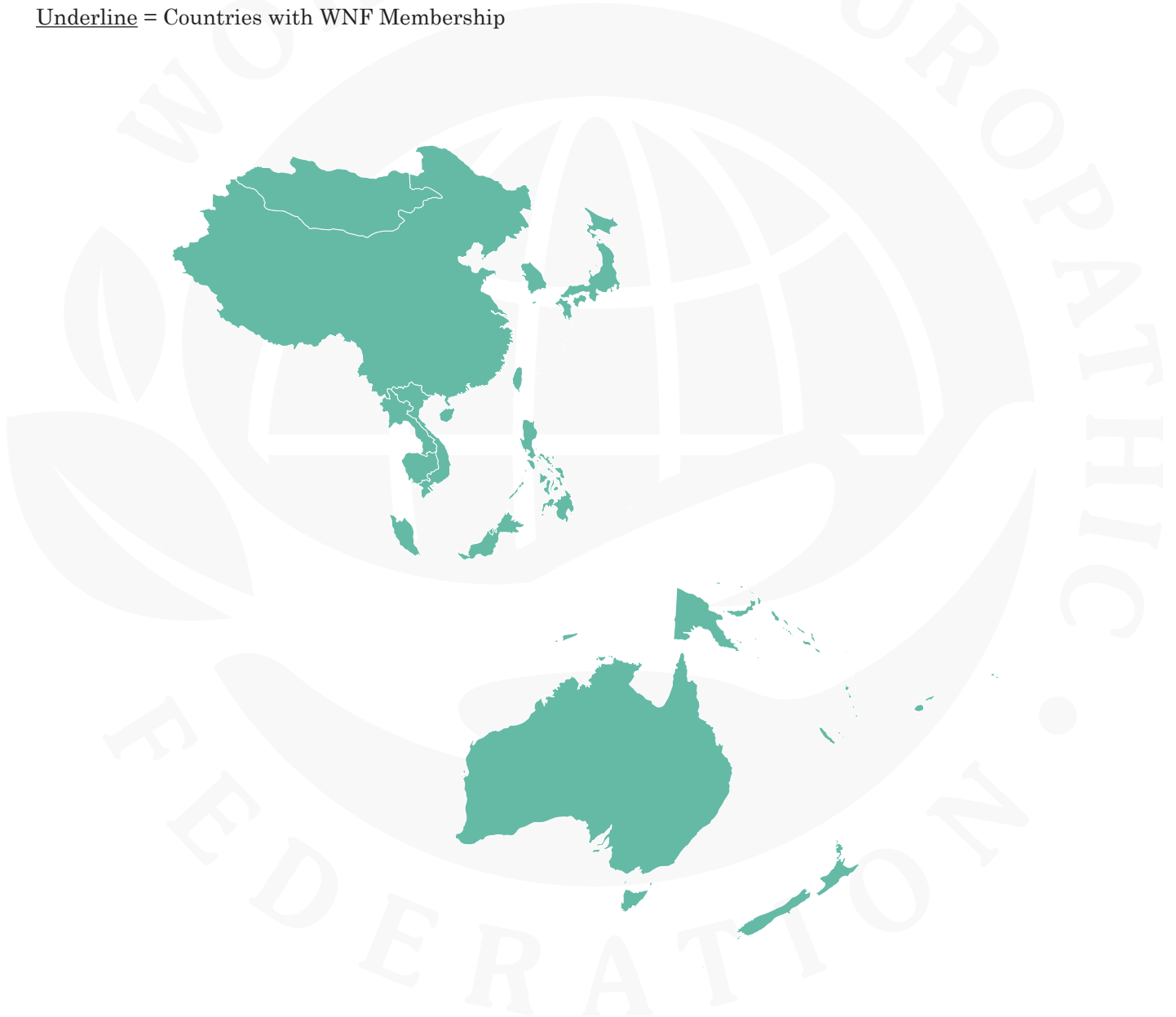
- Try to get more insurance coverage.
- Marketing and educating the public.

# Western Pacific Region

- **Naturopathic Workforce:** Australia, Cambodia, China, Fiji, **Cook Island**, Hong Kong, Japan, **Malaysia**, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, **Samoa**, Singapore, Vanuatu, Viet Nam
- **Countries with naturopathic educational programs:** Australia, New Zealand
- **Countries with naturopathic research centres:** Australia

Legend: **Red** = Countries with statutory regulation

Underline = Countries with WNF Membership





# Australian Register of Naturopaths and Herbalists



## **Professional Formation 2010**

ARONAH has been established to provide minimum standards of education and practice for naturopathy and Western herbal medicine. The Board has developed this independent register which mirrors government requirements for the regulation of health practitioners.

## **Top Successes**

### **HTA Launch November 2022**

ARONAH was honoured to be part of the HTA launch late last year in Canberra, Australia. This was lead out by the Naturopaths and Herbalists Association (NHAA), however ARONAH board member, Associate Professor Amie Steele was an integral part of the HTA document itself.

### **Naturopathic Regulation Research Project**

This 11 chapter document will encompass a thorough and systematic examination of the Australian naturopathy/Western Herbal Medicine workforce, the consumers who use naturopathic services, as well as the education landscape, the associations and groups that represent the profession, and a risk analysis of the practice of naturopathy. ARONAH along with other members of the Australian Naturopathic Council have been working on this Project since the end of 2020. It is very close to being completed. This will be used as a basis for an application to the Australian Government for registration of naturopaths and Western herbalists.

As part of this project, we had a conversation about registration and what it means in Australia. A Zoom Town hall meeting was held in June, where well over 1,000 naturopaths listened live or to the recording.

### **National naturopathic education standards**

Southern Cross University became the first higher education provider to be accredited with the national naturopathic education standards.

These standards were released in 2021 by ARONAH, and are the most comprehensive review of the education standards ever undertaken in Australia.

### **ARONAH continues to form strong relationships with external stakeholders.**

We have met with the Health Complaints Commissioner to formalise our relationship with each other and establish how we can work together. (The HCC is the government body which handles complaints against unregistered health practitioners in Victoria – a state of Australia).

ARONAH have met with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) where we defined our role as the Education Accreditor for naturopaths in Australia.

ARONAH has met with the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) to share information on best practice for complaints processes. ARONAH was sought out for advice in this area by the AASW.

## **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

The challenge for the future of naturopathy in Australia remains that we are an unregulated profession. Regulation is essential to protect the public from practitioners adopting the title of naturopath when they are not appropriately qualified. The challenge will be convincing the Australian government to also see this need and agree to incorporate Naturopaths and Western herbalists into the national registration scheme.



# Complementary Medicine Association (CMA)



## **Professional Formation - 1985**

Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:

Number of practitioners: 597

National Organization(s): Australian Naturopathic Council, OneCam

Number of Regional Organizations:

## **Naturopathic Educational Institutions**

- Endeavour College of Natural Health
- Torrens University
- Southern Cross University

**Regulation Status:** Australia is currently under Self Regulation, but CMA and other ANC members are working with other like-minded associations, to present a submission to government for AHPRA Registration.

## **Top Successes**

- Working alongside ANC member, NHAA, to assist with the HTA launch at Parliament House in Canberra in November 2022.

## **Submissions to Government on**

- November 2022 - National Health Literacy Strategy
- December 2022 - Long COVID
- January 2023 - Pre-Budget Submission
- August 2023 - ANZSCO Consultation

## **Other Public Publications Involved**

- November 2022 - Public Consultation sought on the Naturopath Registration Research Project
- August 2023 - Professional and Public Awareness - Advanced Diplomas Beyond 2019 Statement

**May 2023** - ANC members met with Shadow Health Minister Roslyn Bates in Brisbane Parliament House to discuss education standards, recognition and registration of naturopaths, private health fund rebates. She also received a copy of the WNF HTA.

**June 2023** - Collaboration with NHAA and ANTA on “Lifting the Invisibility Cloak on Registration” webinar inclusive of all Naturopaths, irrelevant of association membership. Round table discussion from an expert panel, created lots of discussion from all attendees.

**July 2023** - Hosted “Nutrition Week” with webinars and evidence-based information to support our members with ‘Food as Medicine’ concept.

## **Throughout 2022-23**

- Hosted many free webinars for CMA members to gain CPD
- Redeveloped website to increase user experience, whilst decreasing administration workload.

- Attended education provider Open Days to engage with prospective student members.
- Appointed CMA Student Representatives at education providers to further support and encourage student members. They currently report back to Board a couple times per year.

### **Challenges / Help Needed**

- Continued growth in member numbers will be challenging, as there are still some variations in Australian education standards. Need to look into how to work alongside education providers, whilst upholding our high standards.
- Recognition of profession from international and Australian governments, and other health related organisations, to raise positive profile of naturopathic practitioners.

### **Next Steps**

- Review final draft of Naturopaths for Registration Research Project, and submit to National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.
- Continue lobbying to State and Federal Health Ministers:
- The benefits of qualified naturopathic practitioners and how they can decrease pressure on the public health system, and the costs to governments.
- The importance in AHPRA registration of naturopathic practitioners to ensure quality of profession and protect public from underqualified naturopaths.
- Media interactions to inform public of the benefits of qualified naturopathic practitioners and how they can improve health, lessen load on public health system, assist with ageing etc.
- Continue to support members undertaking research projects, by sharing their advertisements seeking participants.
- Pledge to provide support and provide platform for research students to present results, whilst showcasing their skills and input into the profession.
- Pledge to further develop new graduate practitioner support program with further mentoring, 'new grad' focused webinars, potential sponsored 'start-up' packs etc to build naturopathic profession.



# Naturopaths and Herbalists Association of Australia (NHAA)



**Professional Formation:** The Australian profession falls under third-party accreditation: education providers are regulated by Federal government requirements; practitioners are bound by State (regional) government Codes of Conduct for non-registered health practitioners.

**Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:** 1904 was the first mention of 'naturopathy' in an Australian news publication. The Naturopaths and Herbalists Association of Australia was established in 1920.

**Number of practitioners:** It is difficult to know the total number of naturopathic practitioners in Australia, as the profession is not yet government regulated and there is more than one professional association. However, the best estimate sits at around 14,000 naturopaths.

**National Organization(s):** NHAA, CMA, ARONAH. There are several non-WNF members association organizations in Australia that are multi-modality (i.e. representing health professionals other than Naturopaths) including ATMS, ANTA, ANPA.

**Number of Regional Organizations:** 5 NHAA Chapters (VicHerbs since 1982, SydHerbs since 2017, SEQHerbs since 2018, SAHerbs since 2017, ACTHerbs since 2022)

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** NCNM at Southern Cross University, SSNT at Torrens University, Endeavour College of Natural Health

**Regulation Status:** The naturopathic profession is not regulated in Australia. There is a voluntary self-regulation model whereby associations provide a framework for entry to practice and standards, i.e., the NHAA provides a Practitioner Code of Conduct, Practice Standards and a process for patient complaints and protection. NHAA represent the interests of the naturopathic profession in Australia and provide a framework for voluntary self-regulation but are advocating for inclusion as a statutorily regulated health profession in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) for regulation under Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National board.

## Top Successes

- In May 2023 the NHAA co-hosted **A Cross-Association Town Hall Panel Discussion on Registration** facilitated by Rachel Arthur with Leah Hechtman, Anne-Louise Carlton and Daniel Clare. The purpose of this event was to educate the wider profession on the realities of statutory regulation. Over 1000 people registered for the live event, and so far around 1300 people have watched the recording. (You can view the recording [here](#))
- In November 2022 the NHAA proudly hosted the **international launch of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA Naturopathy)** at Parliament House in Canberra. The NHAA proudly funded a significant portion of HTA Naturopathy.
- The NHAA has been contributed to a number of **Government Policy submissions**, including the National Health and Climate Strategy; The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care, and Sport for an inquiry into Long COVID, and submissions to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) supporting the amendment of the Poisons Standard to exclude low levels of naturally occurring constituents found in preparations of Prunus serotina (Wild Cherry Bark).

- The NHAA has increased our **professional education events** with an annual naturopathic and herbal medicine conference attracting around 350 delegates. We also offer monthly webinars on clinical practice, business development and professional conduct. Every October we host Herbal Medicine Week, with events across the country promoting the work our members do and the value of herbal medicine to the public.
- We launched the first ever Australian Profession **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**. These groups bring together experts in specialized fields of Naturopathy and Western Herbal Medicine. The SIGs include Community Health, Environment and Sustainability, Herbal and Naturopathic Research, Herbal Medicine, Junior Herbalist Club, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Natural Disaster Herbalism.
- Together with the Australian Naturopathic Council (ANC) we presented to government the draft submission document, titled **“Protecting Patients and The Public From Harm Through Stronger Regulation Of The Naturopathy Profession,”** outlining our proposal for the inclusion of naturopathy in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) for health professions.

### **Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

- The NHAA continues to work in collaboration with the Australian Naturopathic Council (ANC) towards the registration of our profession. The focus will include lobbying State and Federal governments, showing them the finalized updated 2005 Lin report, which is a thorough and systematic examination of the Australian naturopathy/Western Herbal Medicine workforce, the consumers who use naturopathic services, as well as the education landscape, the profession’s associations and groups and a risk analysis of the practice of naturopathy.
- Awaiting the government’s final decision on the reinstatement of naturopathic appointments rebates for private health funds. The Natural Therapies Review Expert Advisory Panel (NTREAP) is meeting more regularly now, and we hope to have clarity by the end of 2023.
- The challenge of unifying the Education Standards in the Australian landscape still exists, with some education providers reluctant to adopt the ARONAH National Education Standards. The NHAA continues to encourage the education providers to do so, and for ARONAH to find a contingency plan for when the NHAA accreditation of these courses comes to an end in 2024. Prior to the ARONAH standards being released, the NHAA had the responsibility of creating education standards and accrediting the education providers. As we move towards registration and the need for a single education standard, the NHAA will no longer accredit education providers, but recognize them. The challenge Australia faces is the possible reality that two of the three education providers will not adopt these standards, despite the courses proving 4000+ hours of education and producing excellent graduates.
- Despite the government setting bachelor’s degree as the minimum education requirements for Naturopathy, there are some colleges still providing substandard Naturopathic Advanced Diplomas. The NHAA is working collaboratively with the profession and industry to educate our members and the public on the importance of education standards.
- The NHAA plans to run awareness campaigns to promote the profession to the public – raising the profile of naturopaths in the community.
- In 2023 the NHAA will launch the Herbal and Naturopathic Research Awards which will provide funding for academic research. We see this as being of great benefit to support the growing body of evidence for Naturopathic medicine, and are ensuring Australia continues to be at the forefront of this research.
- The NHAA will also launch our New Graduate Mentoring Program in 2023/24. Supporting our members in the first few years of clinical practice is so important as it is often a challenging time. This program will provide practical support, community and education to new graduates.



# Naturopaths & Medical Herbalists of New Zealand



## Professional Formation

Year naturopathy / naturopathic medicine started in your country:  
1967 first school established South Pacific College of Natural Medicine

## Number of practitioners

607 members (approximately 407 full members; 166 student members; 26 non-practising]

## National Organization(s)

Naturopaths and Medical Herbalists of New Zealand Inc.

## Number of Regional Organizations

No Regional Organisations but we have 10 regional groups as part of the national association

## Naturopathic Educational Institutions

South Pacific College of Natural Medicine

## Regulation Status

Not regulated

## Top Successes

1. Member of Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand 1 of 38 regulated and unregulated health professions  
<https://www.alliedhealth.org.nz/>
2. Members set up free Disaster Response Community Clinics [for more than 2 months] providing naturopathic care in regions impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. We were supplied with over \$30,000 of donated supplements and herbals to distribute.
3. Two Ethics workshops have been conducted in 2023 to engage members more fully in ethical considerations around practice, education and research.
4. NMHNZ sent representatives to a Te tiriti seminar for health professionals and has established the Kaiurungi Subcommittee for engagement with NZs founding document, the Treaty of Waitangi” between Māori and Pakeha and what this means for the association and naturopathy.
5. Established a monthly Graduate Mentoring Program for case discussions.
6. Established a monthly topic workshop led by a mentor covering topics such as social media marketing, self-care, manufacturing, business basics, motivational interviewing, guest speakers – naturopaths on their journeys.
7. Formalised relationships with ARONAH through a Memorandum of Understanding for development of the Asian-Pacific Accreditation Body.
8. South Pacific College of Natural Medicine has initiated development from a three-year bachelor’s degree to a four-year bachelor’s degree to bring New Zealand into alignment with Australia. The first stage has been mapping the learning outcomes of the SPCNM qualification against the ARONAH competency standards to initiate a process of candidature.
9. Committed to providing \$15,000 over 3 years to support ARCCIM Researcher Development program irrespective of whether NZs apply.
10. Have two members on the NZ Workforce Development Council for development of national qualifications that potentially feed into the naturopathic degrees

11. Established with the University of Canterbury several postgraduate pathways to encourage higher education of members in relevant fields
12. Introduced the HTA to government ministers, Allied Health professions.
13. Informed the Chief Allied Health Officer about the COVID live review.
14. Successful 200+ attendee Conference in 2022.
15. Created achievement awards for recognition of outstanding members on an annual basis at annual conference.

**Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed**

1. Challenge - Two colleges closed in the last 4 months – Wellpark College, Naturopathic College of NZ.
2. Currently there is a review of all health professions regulation taking place in NZ so we cannot move forward towards regulation until we are clearer on what regulation will look like in NZ.
3. Currently review of tertiary education taking place in NZ with development of national qualifications. Complementary medicine has been removed. We are unsure at present where this leaves bachelor's degree as is delivered in a private training establishment.
4. Next step – we are supporting South Pacific College of Natural Medicine to move forward with candidacy with ARONAH to bring NZ into alignment with Australia. We believe this to be in the best interests of graduates in both countries. Conversion of ARONAH to Western Pacific Accreditation Board supports development of naturopathy and hopefully protects bachelor's degree in NZ – WE SEE SPCNM CANDIDACY AS A PRIORITY.



# The Jacka Foundation for Natural Therapies Ltd. (JACKA)



## Professional Formation

The Jacka Foundation for Natural Therapies is a not-for-profit charitable fund that supports research in naturopathy and its related modalities, and the development of a community of researchers, scholars and leaders in the naturopathic profession.

The Foundation was formed by Judy Jacka in 2010 after the sale of the organisation's educational business, the Southern School of Natural Therapies Australia (now part of Torrens University Australia). Judy and Alf Jacka were pioneers in Australian naturopathic education since 1961.

The focus of the Jacka Foundation is on building capacity in the profession of naturopathy and facilitating the use of safe and effective natural therapies in the Australian community. We support research, mentoring, leadership, and the development of collaborative partnerships that further these aims.

## Top Successes

Jacka Foundation grants for Australian research in naturopathy

- 2021: Advancing an Aboriginal Pain Remedy – \$AU40,000 research grant to Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community (JBAC) and Griffith University.
- 2020: \$AU45,000 program evaluation funding for the Complementary Therapies program for refugees at the Victorian Foundation for the Survivors of Torture
- 2015: NICM Health Research Institute, Western Sydney University \$AU2m
- 2019 NICM \$AU6m over 15 years. The new funding agreement supports: Research in complementary and integrative medicine; PhD scholarships; postdoctoral fellowships; senior research fellow position; and funding for a university conference centre for complementary and integrative medicine.
- 2017-2021: Australian Research Centre for Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM) – \$AU50,000 per year for research on the natural therapy professions in Australia,
- 2016 – 2021: ARCCIM – Support for Research Mentoring and Leadership program – \$AU30,000 per annum



## Professional Formation

Year naturopathic training started in your country:

Southern School of Natural Therapies started on 6 February 1961 (now Torrens University Australia)

**Naturopathic Educational Institutions:** Torrens University Australia

## Naturopathic Educational Programs:

1. Bachelor of Health Science (Naturopathy)
2. Bachelor of Health Science (Western Herbal Medicine)

**Number of naturopathic students:** 1,000

## Top Successes

- 2019: Naturopathy and western herbal medicine degrees delivered by a university (Torrens University Australia) built on the heritage of private college providers, Southern School of Natural Therapies and Australian College of Natural Therapies.
- 2022: Contribution to the [Health Technology Assessment \(HTA\)](#) through content and supporting launch
- 2021/2022: Contributed to evidence for the Natural Therapies Review for reinstating private health fund provider status for Naturopaths and Herbal Medicine professions.
- 2020. Successful launch of telehealth clinical service provision at the student-led University Clinic 'The Practice' during COVID-19.
- 2021: Free short course on Telehealth launched to support health care practitioners during Covid-19 ([Connecting with Telehealth](#)).
- 2022: over 12,000 clients supported with subsidised health care through the student clinic [The Practice](#)
- 2023: Free short course [Challenging Ageism](#) launched.

As we grow as a university, we have the opportunity to progress Research activities:

Associate Professor, Dr Greg Connolly leads the research activities for the Naturopathic and WHM faculty. The initial research objectives for the Naturopathic and WHM team are to:

- Improve representation of the faculty interests at TUA Research Committees
- Increase academic and student research capacity and output

Two permanent faculty members are undertaking PhD studies:

- Neville Hartley – Aromas Influencing the GABAergic System
- Tracelee Shew – Student practitioner herbal prescribing strategies for general anxiety

### Faculty Research publications in 2022

- a. Hartley, N. McLachlan, C.S. 2022. *Aromas Influencing the GABAergic System*. *Molecules*. 27(8):2414. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules27082414>
- b. Smith, C. Connolly, G, Cook, N. 2022. *Milestone in Australian Naturopathic Education: Southern School of Natural Therapies Celebrates 60 Years*. *Australian Journal of Herbal and Naturopathic Medicine*. 34(1):12-14.
- c. Shew, T. Smith, C. Connolly, G. McLachlan, C. 2022. *Evaluation of home-based Naturopathic Telehealth Clinic: an innovative model implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic*. *BMC Research*. 15(269). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-022-06140-x>
- d. Oates, L, Connolly, G. 2022. *The Wellness Industry: the marginalisation of Naturopathy and Western Herbal Medicine*. *Australian Journal of Herbal and Naturopathic Medicine*. 34(3):102-108.
- e. Smith, C., Shew, T. & McLachlan, C. 2022. *Torrens University – TCM education provider in Australia*. *International Journal of Ayurveda Research*. 3(2):155-156.

### Challenges / Next Steps / Help Needed

We are interested in developing collaborations in the Australian and international sector to further best practice in teaching and learning and practice-centred research.

# Notes







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