

## July 2014 Update: Advanced Diplomas of Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Nutritional Medicine and Western Herbal Medicine to be aligned at Bachelor degree level

All Complementary & Alternative Health (CAH) qualifications in the Health Training Package (HLT07) are currently under review. As part of the review, content is being updated and improved, both to better meet industry needs and to comply with the new national *Standards for Training Packages*. An Industry Reference Group (IRG) comprising representatives from all CAH modalities oversees this work, and there is also a smaller Subject Matter Expert Group (SMEG) for each modality

In March 2014, Subject Matter Expert Groups recommended that the Advanced Diplomas of Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Nutritional Medicine and Western Herbal Medicine should be aligned at Bachelor degree level, and therefore be removed from the Training Package. The Complementary & Alternative Health Industry Reference Group agreed to accept these recommendations in May 2014. It also confirmed and agreed to the historical and future process surrounding this re-alignment of qualifications. See the two process diagrams below. The current timeframe for removal of the qualifications from the Training Package is December 2015, and students enrolled before that time will not be affected by the change. CS&HISC is not involved in professional association recognition of qualifications, and those associations would manage any transition arrangements.

### Background

During the review process for all, there has been much discussion about the alignment of CAH qualifications to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The most significant of these has been around the place of some Advanced Diploma qualifications, and whether those qualifications should be aligned at the Bachelor degree level to fully reflect the skills and extensive knowledge needed to practise.

The Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council (CS&HISC) distributed a discussion paper in September 2013 to put the issue of qualification alignment on the table, and to allow for transparent discussion and decision-making. The paper, *Complementary & Alternative Health: Alignment of Qualifications to the Australian Qualifications Framework*, was initially distributed to all Industry Reference Group and Subject Matter Expert Group members, and then to all CS&HISC stakeholders, including Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) with the qualifications on scope. Stakeholders were provided with two opportunities to provide feedback between September 2013 and February 2014.

Submissions made in response to the discussion paper indicated that:

- the work of CAH practitioners in question does align to the Bachelor degree level as per AQF descriptors
- existing Advanced Diploma training delivery is already, at least in part, aligned to Bachelor degree level – both in terms of content and the volume of learning – as this is needed to meet professional outcomes
- there is majority support for transition to Bachelor degree qualifications
- there are concerns about the complexities of the transition process and how industry may achieve this

### CS&HISC Roles and Responsibilities

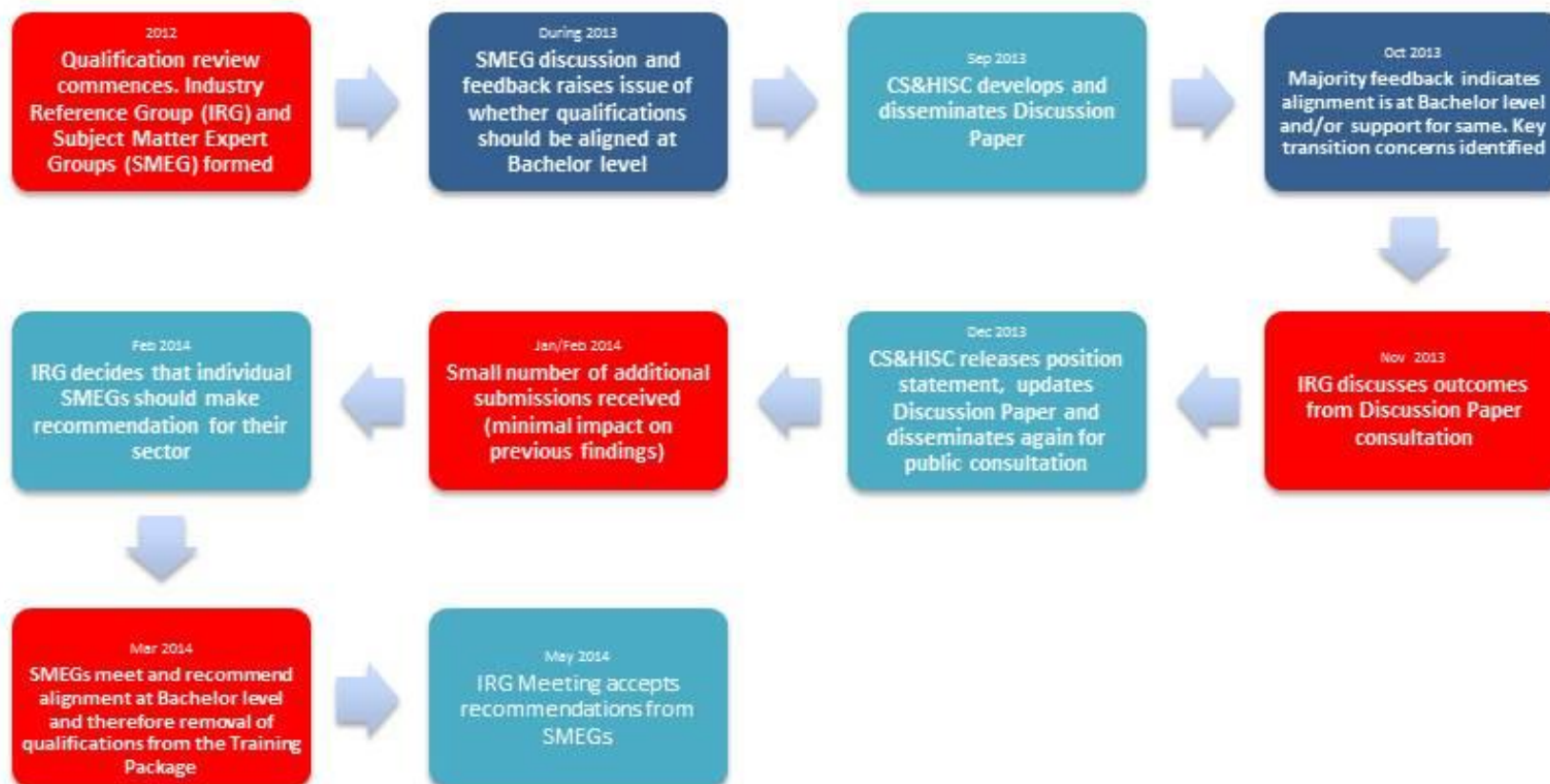
CS&HISC would like to clearly communicate its roles, responsibilities and limitations in relation to qualifications in the Health Training Package. As part of the review process, CS&HISC is required to:

- develop qualifications that reflect vocational outcomes to meet industry requirements
- adhere to the standards for Training Packages, as set down by the National Skills Standards Council, which includes meeting Australian Qualification Framework requirements and providing evidence to support qualification alignment when qualifications are submitted for endorsement

The focus of Training Package qualifications is on the skills and knowledge required for vocational practice. It is this that primarily guides CS&HISC work. CS&HISC has invested significant resources into the review of all CAH qualifications since mid 2012. It has no vested interest in the retention or removal of the CAH Advanced Diploma qualifications from the Health Training Package. CS&HISC has been guided by industry within the confines of National Skills Standards Council requirements.

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## Health Training Package Review: Complementary & Alternative Health Actual Timeline and Process to May 2014 around the issue of Alignment of Advanced Diplomas of Homeopathy, Naturopathy, Nutritional Medicine and Western Herbal Medicine



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## CS&HISC Actions



## Industry Actions

