



# AUSTRALIAN NATURAL THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION (ANTA)

ACN 000 161 142

## COURSE ASSESSMENT & RECOGNITION GUIDELINES

### **Introduction:**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the assessment of courses delivered in Australia in a fair, transparent and objective manner.

ANTA is committed to Quality Assurance and Public Safety and believes course assessment is a service that benefits prospective students, graduates, the profession and the general public and course assessment must be open and transparent. Course assessment/recognition should be not compromised, contingent upon, or negotiated by charging course providers an assessment fee.

ANTA assesses courses based on the information submitted by course providers and no fees are payable. Course assessment by ANTA is FREE of CHARGE.

Course providers are notified by ANTA if the course(s) submitted for assessment have been successful for inclusion on the ANTA Recognised Course List or require further amendments to meet ANTA's requirements.

Courses that meet the guidelines are listed on the ANTA Recognised Course List shown on [www.anta.com.au](http://www.anta.com.au)

Course providers who have courses on the ANTA Recognised Course List are presented with the "ANTA Certificate of Course Recognition".

Course providers seeking recognition of course(s) by ANTA can submit courses for assessment online at [www.anta.com.au](http://www.anta.com.au)

Graduates of courses recognised by ANTA are eligible to apply for full membership and accreditation with ANTA in a seamless process.

Students enrolled in courses recognised by ANTA are eligible to apply for Student membership with ANTA at NO COST and convert to Full Member status upon graduation.

The primary approach and methodology applied by ANTA is based on 'risk management' to enable the recognition of courses and to ensure to the greatest extent possible the delivery of a safe standard of practice to the general public.

ANTA uses a three level review and assessment process in the evaluation of courses for recognition by ANTA.

ANTA assesses courses that include elements of flexible learning and self directed learning strategies however, in the interests of Quality Assurance and Public Safety, ANTA does not assess or recognise undergraduate courses delivered by distance education and/or do not have minimum requirements of supervised on campus clinical training.

### **ANTA employs the following in course assessment/reviews:**

- ✓ Courses submitted by providers are pre-evaluated by the Australian Natural Therapists Academic Committee (ANTAC) and forwarded to the Australian Natural Therapists Accreditation Board (ANTAB) for review.
- ✓ The courses and ANTAC recommendation are assessed and reviewed by ANTAB and where course(s) meet the required criteria, ANTAB makes recommendation to ANTA National Council
- ✓ ANTA National Council reviews the course and recommendation by ANTAB and makes the final decision to recognise the course.
- ✓ ANTA encourages courses to be delivered and based on the educational objectives of the institution.
- ✓ ANTA encourages courses to be delivered and based on the evolution of the profession and mechanisms of teaching.
- ✓ ANTA encourages course providers to consider the effects on stakeholders, with the aim to produce better trained and more clinically experienced graduates.
- ✓ ANTA encourages the continued development of curricula within Natural and Traditional Therapy courses to effectively prepare students for entry into the profession.
- ✓ ANTA encourages curricula to be reviewed annually or as external registration requirements develop.
- ✓ Due to quality standards and practical aspects required in clinical practice a substantial proportion of undergraduate courses should be delivered on campus.
- ✓ ANTA believes clinical competency, Philosophy and Professional issues are important to the profession and public safety.
- ✓ ANTA will assess post graduate courses delivered by distance education for recognition purposes.
- ✓ ANTA course recognition criteria is reviewed regularly, to ensure relevance to the delivery of courses in line with the needs of developing modalities.
- ✓ ANTA Course Recognition Guidelines are evaluated and benchmarked regularly to ensure relevance and currency to the profession, government and public requirements/expectations.
- ✓ ANTA is involved with the development and review of Health Training Packages (HTP) – the HTP has provided a minimum standard as well as a mechanism for students to transfer to other institutions.
- ✓ ANTA consults with and participates on College, TAFE and University Course Advisory Committees.
- ✓ The “ANTA Recognised Course List” is managed by ANTA and is the property of ANTA.
- ✓ ANTA reserves the right to recognise or not recognise any courses.
- ✓ ANTA reserves the right to add or remove any courses from the “ANTA Recognised Course List”.

### **COURSE MODULE/CATEGORY GUIDELINES:**

#### **Biomedical Sciences 25 – 35% of course**

Including anatomy & physiology, pathology, pharmacology, toxicology, microbiology chemistry, biology biochemistry, phytochemistry, symptomatology and diagnosis

#### **Modality specific 30 – 45% of course**

Including philosophy, relevant modality including diagnostic framework

### **Clinical Practicum 25% - 35% of course**

Specific to the modality(s) covered, can include, but is not limited to observation, case taking, tutorials, practice management, referral procedures, clinical record keeping, etc – evidence would need to be collected such as policy of student clinic and clinic handbook

### **Counselling/Interpersonal skills, Ethics, Research, Professional issues 5 – 10% of course**

Includes Ethics and jurisprudence, research assessment/methodology, integration of the modality into the Australian healthcare system, current global climate of health care, critical thinking and clinical judgement, communication with other healthcare professionals, professional requirements, financial record keeping, adverse event reporting, notifiable and transmittable diseases.

## **GUIDELINES FOR COURSE HOURS:**

The breakdown of hours for each award has encouraged flexibility in course delivery as well as focusing on the effective performance of a practitioner.

The minimum expected supervised contact hours for each award is broken down for each of the following levels:

**AS A GUIDELINE IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HEALTH FUNDS WILL NOT RECOGNISE GRADUATES OR PRACTITIONERS AS HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS IF AN UNDERGRADUATE COURSE IS COMPLETED SUBSTANTIALLY ON-LINE OR BY DISTANCE EDUCATION.**

| <b>Award</b>  | <b>Hours</b>  |
|---|---|
| Doctoral Degree   | A minimum of a 4000 hour course in the modality   |
| Masters Degree  | A minimum of a 4000 hour course in the modality   |
| Graduate Diploma  | To be assessed by ANTAB   |
| Graduate Certificate  | To be assessed by ANTAB   |
| Bachelor Degree 1<br>(Naturopathy & Acupuncture)  | A minimum of a 3000 hour course in the modality   |
| Bachelor Degree 2<br>(Herbal Medicine, Homoeopathy & Nutrition)                           | A minimum of a 2600 hour course in the modality   |
| Advanced Diploma 1<br>(Naturopathy & Acupuncture)   | A minimum of a 2600 hour course in the modality<br>(acceptance of Advanced Diploma by ANTA to be reviewed annually) |
| Advanced Diploma 2<br>(Herbal Medicine, Homoeopathy, Nutrition & Remedial Therapies)      | A minimum of a 2000 hour course in the modality<br>(acceptance of Advanced Diploma by ANTA to be reviewed annually) |
| Diploma<br>(Remedial Massage Therapy, Oriental (TCM) Remedial Therapies and Aromatherapy) | A minimum of a 1200 hour course in the modality   |
| Diploma<br>(Counselling)  | A minimum of a 700 hour course in the modality  |

## Guidelines - Diploma:

| <b>Diploma<sup>1</sup> (Remedial Therapies, Oriental (TCM) Remedial Therapies, Aromatherapy)</b> |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Course in years  | <b>2 years</b>            |                 |
| Student on Campus  | 500 hours                 |                 |
| Student off Campus<br>- includes Directed Self Learning  | 500 hours                 |                 |
| Clinical practicum   | 200 hours                 | 100% attendance |
| Other  |                           |                 |
| <b>Total Course</b>  | <b>1200 hours minimum</b> |                 |

| <b>Diploma<sup>1</sup> – Overall Hours – Breakdown of Content</b> |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Biomedical Sciences   | 200 - 300                 |  |
| Modality Theory & Techniques                                      | 600 - 700                 |  |
| Clinical Practicum  | 200 - 300                 |  |
| Professional issues   | 100 - 120                 |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>   | <b>1200 hours minimum</b> |  |

| <b>Diploma<sup>1</sup> – Clinical Practicum (incl. in the total course hours)</b> |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Supervised Clinic on Campus   | 150                      |  |
| Supervised Clinic off Campus  | 50                       |  |
| Non-supervised Clinic   |                          |  |
| Other   |                          |  |
| Required Attendance Rate  | <b>100%</b>              |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>   | <b>200 hours minimum</b> |  |

## Guidelines – Diploma (continued):

| <b>Diploma<sup>2</sup> (Counselling)</b> |                          |                 |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Course in years                | <b>2 years</b>           |                 |
| Student on Campus                        | <b>250 - 300</b>         |                 |
| Student off Campus<br>- includes DSL     | <b>250 - 300</b>         |                 |
| Clinical Practicum                       | <b>200</b>               | 100% attendance |
| Other                                    |                          |                 |
| <b>Total Course</b>                      | <b>700 hours minimum</b> |                 |

| <b>Diploma<sup>2</sup> – Overall Hours – Breakdown of Content</b> |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Biomedical Sciences   | 100 - 120                |  |
| Modality Theory   | 300 - 350                |  |
| Clinical Practicum  | 200 - 250                |  |
| Professional issues   | 80 - 100                 |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>   | <b>700 hours minimum</b> |  |

| <b>Diploma<sup>2</sup> – Clinical Practicum (incl. in the total course hours)</b> |                          |  |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Supervised Clinic on Campus   | 100                      |  |
| Supervised Clinic off Campus  | 100                      |  |
| Non-supervised Clinic   | 0 - 50                   |  |
| Other   |                          |  |
| Required Attendance Rate  | 100%                     |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>   | <b>200 hours minimum</b> |  |

## Guidelines – Advanced Diploma:

| <b>Advanced Diploma<sup>1</sup> (Naturopathy, Acupuncture)</b> |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Course in years                                      | 3yrs FT                   |                 |
| Student on Campus  | 1000 -1200                |                 |
| Student off Campus-includes DSL                                | 1000 -1200                |                 |
| Clinic   | 600                       | 100% attendance |
| Other  |                           |                 |
| Total Course   | <b>2600 hours minimum</b> |                 |

| <b>Advanced Diploma<sup>1</sup> – Overall Hours – Breakdown of Content</b> |                           |  |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Biomedical Sciences  | 800                       |  |
| Modality Theory  | 1100 -1200                |  |
| Clinical Practicum   | 600                       |  |
| Professional issues  | 100 - 200                 |  |
| Total Course   | <b>2600 hours minimum</b> |  |

| <b>Advanced Diploma<sup>1</sup> – Clinical Practicum (incl. in the total course hours)</b> |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Supervised Clinic on Campus  | 400                      |  |
| Supervised Clinic off Campus   | 200                      |  |
| Non-supervised Clinic  |                          |  |
| Other  |                          |  |
| Required Attendance Rate   | 100%                     |  |
| Total Course   | <b>600 hours minimum</b> |  |

## Guidelines – Advanced Diploma (continued):

| <b>Advanced Diploma<sup>2</sup> (Nutrition, Herbal Medicine, Homeopathy &amp; Remedial Therapies)</b> |                           |                 |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Course in years   | 3 years FT                |                 |
| Student on Campus   | 800 hours                 |                 |
| Student off Campus-includes DSL   | 800 hours                 |                 |
| Clinic  | 400                       | 100% attendance |
| Other   |                           |                 |
| Total Course  | <b>2000 hours minimum</b> |                 |

| <b>Advanced Diploma<sup>2</sup> – Overall Hours – Breakdown of Content</b> |                           |  |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Biomedical Sciences  | 400 - 600                 |  |
| Modality Theory  | 1000 -1200                |  |
| Clinical Practicum   | 400                       |  |
| Professional issues  | 100 - 200                 |  |
| Total Course   | <b>2000 hours minimum</b> |  |

| <b>Advanced Diploma<sup>2</sup> – Clinical Practicum (incl. in the total course hours)</b> |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Supervised Clinic on Campus  | 250                      |  |
| Supervised Clinic off Campus   | 150                      |  |
| Non-supervised Clinic  |                          |  |
| Other  |                          |  |
| Required Attendance Rate   | 100%                     |  |
| Total Course   | <b>400 hours minimum</b> |  |

## Guidelines – Bachelor Degree:

| <b>Bachelor Degree<sup>1</sup> (Naturopathy &amp; Acupuncture)</b> |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Course in years  | 4yrs FT                   |                 |
| Student on Campus  | 1400                      |                 |
| Student off Campus   | 1000 - 1400               |                 |
| Clinical practicum   | 600                       | 100% attendance |
| Other  |                           |                 |
| <b>Total Course</b>  | <b>3000 hours minimum</b> |                 |

| <b>Bachelor Degree<sup>1</sup> – Overall Hours – Breakdown of Content</b> |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Biomedical Sciences   | 800 – 1000                |  |
| Modality Theory   | 1200 - 1400               |  |
| Clinical Practicum  | 600                       |  |
| Professional issues   | 200 - 250                 |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>   | <b>3000 hours minimum</b> |  |

| <b>Bachelor Degree<sup>1</sup> – Clinical Practicum (included in the total course hours)</b> |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Supervised Clinic on Campus  | 400 - 500                |  |
| Supervised Clinic off Campus   | 200                      |  |
| Non-supervised Clinic  |                          |  |
| Other  |                          |  |
| Required Attendance Rate   |                          |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>  | <b>600 hours minimum</b> |  |

## Guidelines Bachelor Degree (continued):

| <b>Bachelor Degree<sup>2</sup> (Nutrition, Herbal Medicine, Homoeopathy)</b> |                           |                 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Length of Course in years  | 3yrs FT                   |                 |
| Student on Campus  | 1100 - 1300               |                 |
| Student off Campus   | 1100 - 1300               |                 |
| Clinical practicum   | 400                       | 100% attendance |
| Other  |                           |                 |
| <b>Total Course</b>  | <b>2600 hours minimum</b> |                 |

| <b>Bachelor Degree<sup>2</sup> – Overall Hours – Breakdown of Content</b> |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Biomedical Sciences   | 700 – 900                 |  |
| Modality Theory   | 1100 - 1400               |  |
| Clinical Practicum  | 400                       |  |
| Professional issues   | 150 - 250                 |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>   | <b>2600 hours minimum</b> |  |

| <b>Bachelor Degree<sup>2</sup> – Clinical Practicum (included in the total course hours)</b> |                          |  |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Supervised Clinic on Campus  | 250 - 400                |  |
| Supervised Clinic off Campus   | 150                      |  |
| Non-supervised Clinic  |                          |  |
| Other  |                          |  |
| Required Attendance Rate   |                          |  |
| <b>Total Course</b>  | <b>400 hours minimum</b> |  |

## Guidelines - Masters Degree:

| <b>Masters Degree – Overall Hours – Mode of Delivery</b> |  |                 |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Length of Course in years                                | Two PT                                     |                 |
| Student on Campus  | 200  | 100% attendance |
| Student off Campus-research DSL                          | 1000                                       |                 |
| Clinic   |  |                 |
| Other *  |  |                 |
| Required Attendance Rate                                 |  |                 |
| Total Course   | <b>1200 hours on top of original award</b> |                 |

| <b>Masters Degree – Overall Hours – Breakdown of Content</b> |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Biomedical Sciences  | 500 – 1000                                 |  |
| Modality Theory  | 500 - 1000                                 |  |
| Clinical Practicum   |  |  |
| Professional issues  | 200  |  |
| Total Course   | <b>1200 hours on top of original award</b> |  |

| <b>Masters Degree – Clinical Practicum (included in the total course hours)</b> |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Supervised Clinic on Campus   | nil  |  |
| Supervised Clinic off Campus  | nil  |  |
| Non-supervised Clinic   |  |  |
| Other   |  |  |
| Required Attendance Rate  |  |  |
| Total Course  | <b>From previous award + Private clinical experience</b> |  |

## GUIDELINES FOR POSTGRADUATE COURSES:

ANTA requires graduates applying for membership or an upgrade in membership status to have completed a primary (undergraduate) qualification relating to the postgraduate qualification undertaken.

Flexible delivery or self-directed learning in a postgraduate course(s) are acceptable modes of delivery, provided the student has previously completed an appropriate undergraduate course of study delivered on campus relative to the postgraduate course/qualification being undertaken.

## ANTA ACCREDITATION POLICY:

**Associations are not Registered Training Organisations (RTO) and can only accredit practitioners in the modality(s) shown on the qualification(s) issued by the education provider.**

### **Australian Natural Therapists Association Ltd**

PO Box 657, Maroochydore QLD 4558

email: anta1955@bigpond.com

tel: 1800 817 577 fax: (07) 5409 8200

web: [www.anta.com.au](http://www.anta.com.au)