



# *Natural Healers Association*

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## **NHA CIRCULAR LETTER SEPTEMBER 2011**

Dear Member

The end of the year is nearing fast and many interesting developments occurred during the course of this year. By now the application for the Ethnomedicine statutory register at AHPCS is old news. What is not general news is where we stand at the moment. The purpose of this circular letter is to provide you, our esteemed member, with an update.

For the sake of clarity I will provide you with a systematic break down.

It needs to be confirmed that the NHA (in affiliation with the CCSA) is a stakeholder in the process of gaining professional recognition. The Executive of the NHA has had numerous meetings during the course of the year with the Registrar of Allied to discuss the scope of ethnomed and ways to implement the application.

Allied will convene a meeting during October/November to make a decision whether to recommend the application or not. The NHA will place the decision on our website as soon as it becomes available (see address below). Should the outcome be positive, the implementation may take another two to five years. This provides members in the interim the opportunity to get their qualifications in order.

Since Ethnomed will, if and when approved, be a diagnostic profession, the minimum training requirement will be a five year applicable and accredited qualification. This means that you need to have completed the following:

- Level 5 certificate in Ethnomedicine
- Diploma (240 credits) in Ethnomedicine (=degree level)
- Honours degree in Medical Sociology or equivalent
- Masters degree in Medical Sociology or equivalent
- OR alternatively: The MSc degree in wellness

- PhD in Alternative medicine

We have managed, in cooperation with INH and NWU, to institute the necessary qualifications and most of our members are currently in the process of pursuing the available learning pathways. The stance of the NHA, as contained in our submission to Allied, proposes that ethnomed should make provision for three levels of registration in terms of qualifications:

- Basic level – certificate to qualify as primary health care worker.
- Intermediate level – degree status to qualify as ethnomed advisor.
- Postgraduate level – to qualify as ethnomed practitioner (5 years).


Only once the scope of ethnomed has been finalized will we be sure that the three levels could become a reality. Please note that within the spectrum of the ethnomed scope provision is also made to include socio-therapeutic counselling.

It is unlikely that the so-called grandpa-clause will be applicable to RPL candidates into acceptance at the Allied. The RPL function will consequently be performed by the training provider (and not by the AHPCSA). Please contact the NHA at your earliest convenience if we could be of assistance in this process.

For more information please see [www.naturalhealingfoundation.com](http://www.naturalhealingfoundation.com)

On behalf of all the staff and management at NHA and CCSA we would like to wish you a blessed festive season (since this will be our last circular letter for the year).

Wishing you health and happiness



Prof Marius Herholdt  
Chairperson