

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**COUNCIL FOR THE PROFESSIONS
COMPLEMENTARY TO MEDICINE - MALTA**

YEAR 2004

**Published by the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine
181, Melita Street, Valletta.**

It is with great pleasure that I am submitting the first Annual Report following the Amendment in the Law whereby the Board for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine is now known as the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine.

New duties and obligations have been created thus making this Council a dynamic one capable of change and accepting the new challenges that it has to face with Malta's entry into the European Union.

The participation of the Council members has been admirable both in their attendance and in their contribution.

We managed to set up code of ethics for all the professions and we welcomed new professions into the Council which were not regulated before.

It is our aim to achieve uniform standard equivalent to other Member States of the European Union but never compromising our local standards.

We hope that in the future we will continue our important role in the medical field regulating the various professions for the benefit both of the patients and the professionals.

Dr. Martin Fenech
President

February, 2005

1. Composition of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine

Appointments and Elections

In 2004 the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine was composed as follows :

President

Dr. Martin Fenech LLD

Appointed Members

Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado
Ms. Carmen Delia (resigned)
Ms. Eve Grixti
Ms. Magda Magri Naudi
Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell
Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi (appointed instead of Ms. Delia)

Elected Members

Mr. Joseph Agius
Mr. Victor Grixti
Mr. Edward Gruppetta
Mr. Andrew Scicluna
Mr. Paul Spiteri
Ms. Stephanie Vella
Mr. Renato Zerafa

Registrar

Ms. Gillian Mifsud

- i. Dr. Martin Fenech LLD was appointed as the President of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine by the Prime Minister for a 3-year term of office with effect from 3rd March 2004 as per Part V Article 26 (1) (a) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.
- ii. Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado (Optometrist), Ms. Eve Grixti (Dental Technologist) and Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell (Dental Hygienist), were appointed by the Prime Minister, as members of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine for a 3-year term of office with effect from 3rd March, 2004, as per Part V Article 26 (1) (d) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.
- iii. Ms. Carmen Delia and Ms. Magda Magri Naudi, lay persons representing the public, were appointed by the Prime Minister, according to Part V Art. 26 (1) (b) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003, for a 3-year term of office with effect from 3rd March, 2004.
- iv. Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi was appointed by the Prime Minister with effect from 15th November, 2004, in replacement of Ms. Carmen Delia who resigned with effect from 24th October, 2004.
- v. Mr. Joseph Agius (Speech Language Pathologist), Mr. Victor Grixti (Physiotherapist), Mr. Edward Gruppetta (Radiographer), Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Podiatrist), Mr. Paul Spiteri (Environmental Health Officer), Ms. Stephanie Vella (Occupational Therapist) and Mr. Renato Zerafa (Medical Laboratory Scientist) were elected by and from amongst the professions regulated by the Council with effect from 3rd March, 2004 as per Article 26 (1) (c) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.

2. Meetings and Attendances

- i. During 2004 the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine held nine (9) meetings all of which were of an administrative nature.
- ii. Dr. Martin Fenech attended all the nine meetings of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine.

iii. Attendance of members.

Member	Attended	Excused	Absent
Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado	8	1	
Ms. Carmen Delia*	5	2	
Ms. Eve Grixti	9		
Ms. Magda Magri Naudi	6	3	
Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell	9		
Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi*	1		
Mr. Joseph Agius	8	1	
Mr. Victor Grixti	9		
Mr. Edward Gruppetta	7	2	
Mr. Andrew Scicluna	5	4	
Mr. Paul Spiteri	4	2	3
Ms. Stephanie Vella	7	2	
Mr. Renato Zerafa	9		

*Ms Carmen Delia resigned on 24th October, 2004 and Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi was appointed on 15th November 2004.

3. Sub-committees of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine

- i. The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine appointed the undermentioned sub-committees in accordance with Part V Article 26 (3) and (4) to recommend upon specific matters pertaining to each of these professions and advise to the Council upon documents and qualifications of local and foreign health care professionals regulated by the Council :-

Acupuncturists sub-committee
 Mr. Victor Grixti (Chairperson)
 Mr. Howard Jones substituted by
 Mr. Warren Kinder
 Dr. Wenzhong Wu

****Chiropractors** sub-committee
 Mr. Victor Grixti
 Ms. Magda Magri Naudi
 Ms. Stephanie Vella

Dental Hygienists sub-committee
 Ms. Eve Grixti (Chairperson)
 Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell
 Mr. Jeremy Lanfranco

Dental Technologists sub-committee	Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell (Chairperson) Ms. Eve Grixti Mr. John Salomone Reynaud
**Dietitians sub-committee	Ms. Eve Grixti Ms. Magda Magri Naudi Mr. Andrew Scicluna
Environmental Health Officers sub-committee	Mr. Renato Zerafa (Chairperson) Mr. Paul Spiteri Mr. Clive Tonna
Medical Lab. Scientists sub-committee	Mr. Paul Spiteri (Chairperson) Mr. Renato Zerafa Mr. Noel Ciantar
**Nutritionists sub-committee	Ms. Eve Grixti Ms. Magda Magri Naudi Mr. Andrew Scicluna
Occupational Therapists sub-committee	Mr. Joe Agius (Chairperson) Ms. Stephanie Vella Ms. Liliana Agius
Optometrists sub-committee	Ms. Carmen Delia (Chairperson) substituted by Mr. Andrew Scicluna Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado Mr. Kerstien Gabarretta
Orthoptists sub-committee	Ms. Carmen Delia (Chairperson) substituted by Mr. Andrew Scicluna Mr. Martin Francalanza
Perfusionists sub-committee	Mr. Renato Zerafa (Chairperson) Mr. Peter Gatt
Physiotherapists sub-committee	Mr. Joe Agius (Chairperson) Mr. Victor Grixti Ms. Vanya Aquilina

Podiatrists sub-committee

Ms. Stephanie Vella (Chairperson)
Mr. Andrew Scicluna
Mr. Alfred Gatt

Radiographers sub-committee

Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson)
Mr. Edward Gruppetta
Mr. Paul Bezzina

Speech Language Pathologists
sub-committee

Mr. Victor Grixti (Chairperson)
Mr. Joe Agius
Ms. Rita Micallef

** These Sub-committees were temporary appointed since the Council started regulated in 2004 these three professions namely the chiropractors, the dietitians, and the nutritions. Subsequently, the Council had to appoint these sub-committees to evaluate and recommend upon the initial requests for registrations of these professionals.

- ii. The Council set up a sub-committee to draft the subsidiary legislation namely the Standing Orders of the Council. This sub-committee was composed of Ms. Carmen Delia (substituted by Mr. Joseph Agius after her resignation), Mr. Edward Gruppetta, Mr. Renato Zerafa and Ms. Gillian Mifsud (Registrar).

4. Electoral Commissions

- i. Mr. Mario Fava, Ms. Margaret Muscat and Mr. Etienne Sciberras were appointed '*ad hoc*' electoral commissioners by the Minister of Health, the Elderly and Community Care to conduct the first ever elections by postal ballot as per Regulation 3 of the Medical Council (Elections) Regulations 2004.
- ii. In June 2004, the Appeals Committee (Elections) Regulations, 2004, came into force by Legal Notice 316 of 2004. The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine at its meeting of 3rd June, 2004, appointed Mr. Joseph Agius, Mr. Victor Grixti, Mr. Andrew Scicluna and Ms. Stephanie Vella as electoral commissioners to conduct the election to have elected a professional regulated by the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine where the appeal concerns a member of a health care profession regulated by the Council according to Part IX Article 49 (e) (iv) of the Health Care Professions Act.

5. Registers of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine

The registers comprise the names, addresses, registrable qualifications, date and number of registration of health care professionals registered with the Council.

ACUPUNCTURISTS	14
CHIROPRACTORS	4
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS	10
DENTAL HYGIENISTS	21
DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS	31
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS	161
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS	308
NUTRITIONISTS	7
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS	86
OPTOMETRISTS	9
ORTHOPTISTS	1
PERFUSIONISTS	2
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS	233
PODIATRISTS	40
RADIOGRAPHERS	151
SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS	87

6. Applications for registration

During the year 2004, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine received the following applications for registration:-

Acupuncturists	2
Clinical Psychologist	1
Chiropractors	5
Dental Technologist	1
Dietitians	2
Environmental Health Officer	1
Medical Laboratory Scientists	15
Nutritionists	12
Optometrists	2
Osteopath	1
Physiotherapists	18
Radiographers	13
Speech Language Pathologists	21

7. New Registrations

i. During the year 2004, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine approved the registration of:-

Acupuncturists	2
Chiropractor	1
Dental Technologist	1
Nutritionists	7
Optometrist	1
Physiotherapists	3

in accordance with Article 28 (1) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003 (Cap. 464 of the Laws of Malta).

ii. The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine also approved the registration of

Chiropractors	3
Physiotherapist	1

for a period of two years in accordance with Article 28 (2) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003 (Cap. 464).

- iii. During the year 2004, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine received the following applications for temporary registration from

Environmental Health Officer	1
Medical Laboratory Scientists	10
Physiotherapists	14
Radiographers	13
Speech Language Pathologists	21

who had successfully finished the respective course at the University of Malta. All these were given temporary registration up till 31st December 2004 in accordance with Article 28 (3) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.

Moreover, after they graduated in November 2004 the Council approved their registration as from 2nd December 2004 in accordance with Article 28 (1) (a) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.

8. Meetings with Boards

- (1) In June 2004 representatives of the Council met with representatives of the Academic Credentials Evaluation Board, Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre, Education Division, Floriana. During this meeting various matters were discussed specifically the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications Act 2002 and subsequently regulations, the roles of the two Authorities and the way how the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine and the Academic Credentials Evaluation Board can develop a good working relationship.
- (2) In December 2004 the Radiographers sub-committee together with the Registrar and the President met representatives of the Radiation Protection Board. The roles of the Radiation Protection Board and the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine were discussed. Moreover, a discussion was held on the Legal Notice LN 472/2004 regarding Ionising Radiation Medical Exposure Regulations, 2004.

9. Codes of Practice for each registered Profession

During this year several Council sub-committees worked on the codes of practice in relation to the professions registered with the Council. Draft copies of the codes of practice were presented during the Council meetings held this year. After the necessary discussions and evaluation the Council is planning to publish the codes of practice for each registered Profession.

Gillian Mifsud
REGISTRAR