

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

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

**YEAR 2006**

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I would like to present the annual report for the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine for the year 2006.

This year brought about new challenges. It was a year where the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine had a heavy workload.

The Council managed to achieve and conclude the Codes of Practice of sixteen health care professions and publish and amend the Codes of Ethical and Professional Conduct. This initiative is beneficial and took a lot of effort from the Council members and Sub-committee members to formulate. Such Codes of Practice and Ethical and Professional Conduct were quite overdue.

I understand that the term of office of the members of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine is about to expire. I am confident that the new Council will continue to achieve the same satisfactory results that the present Council has achieved.

I personally thank all Council members for their valid contribution throughout the past years.

Dr. Martin Fenech  
President

February, 2007

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

In 2006 the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine was composed as follows:

### **President**

Dr. Martin Fenech LLD

### **Appointed Members**

Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado  
Ms. Eve Grixti  
Ms. Magda Magri Naudi  
Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell  
Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi

### **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

## 2. Meetings and Attendances

- i. During 2006 the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine held fifteen (15) meetings all of which were of an administrative nature.
- ii. Dr. Martin Fenech attended all the fifteen meetings of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine.
- iii. Attendance of members.

<b>Member</b>	<b>Attended</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado	9	6	0
Ms. Eve Grixti	14	1	0
Ms. Magda Magri Naudi	10	5	0
Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell	15	0	0
Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi	15	0	0
Mr. Joseph Agius	11	4	0
Mr. Victor Grixti	13	2	0
Mr. Edward Gruppetta	10	5	0
Mr. Andrew Scicluna	10	5	0
Mr. Paul Spiteri	5	5	5
Ms. Stephanie Vella	11	3	1
Mr. Renato Zerafa	10	5	0

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

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

**Acupuncturists** sub-committee

Mr. Victor Grixti (Chairperson)  
Mr. Yiquan Xu

**Chiropractors** sub-committee

Ms. Stephanie Vella (Chairperson)  
Ms. Elaine Marie McDougall Portelli  
Mr. Michael Edward Solan

<b>Clinical Perfusionists</b> sub-committee	Mr. Renato Zerafa (Chairperson) Mr. Peter Gatt
<b>Dental Hygienists</b> sub-committee	Ms. Eve Grixti (Chairperson) Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell Mr. Jeremy Lanfranco
<b>Dental Technologists</b> sub-committee	Ms. Maria Carmela Seychell (Chairperson) Ms. Eve Grixti Mr. John Salomone Reynaud
<b>Dietitians</b> sub-committee	Ms. Eve Grixti (Chairperson) Mr. Mario Caruana Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi (Temporary)
<b>Environmental Health Officers</b> sub-committee	Mr. Renato Zerafa (Chairperson) Mr. Paul Spiteri Mr. Clive Tonna
<b>Medical Lab. Scientists</b> sub-committee	Mr. Paul Spiteri (Chairperson) Mr. Renato Zerafa Mr. Noel Ciantar
<b>Nutritionists</b> sub-committee	Ms. Eve Grixti (Chairperson) Mr. Joseph Magri Ms. Lucy Ann Pace
<b>Occupational Therapists</b> sub-committee	Mr. Joe Agius (Chairperson) Ms. Stephanie Vella Ms. Liliana Agius
<b>Optometrists</b> sub-committee	Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson) Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado Mr. Kerstien Gabarretta
<b>Orthoptists</b> sub-committee	Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson) Mr. Martin Francalanza

<b>Physiotherapists</b> sub-committee	Mr. Joe Agius (Chairperson) Mr. Victor Grixti Ms. Vanya Aquilina
<b>Podiatrists</b> sub-committee	Ms. Stephanie Vella (Chairperson) Mr. Andrew Scicluna Mr. Alfred Gatt
<b>**Psychotherapists</b> sub-committee	Ms. Magda Magri Naudi Mr. Andrew Scicluna Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi
<b>Radiographers</b> sub-committee	Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson) Mr. Edward Gruppetta Mr. Paul Bezzina
<b>Speech Language Pathologists</b> sub-committee	Mr. Victor Grixti (Chairperson) Mr. Joe Agius Ms. Rita Micallef

\*\* This Sub-committee was temporarily appointed to draw up the criteria to be used by the Council when considering applications for registration of Psychotherapists.

- ii. The sub-committee appointed by the Council during 2004 to draft the subsidiary legislation namely the Standing Orders of the Council, met again during the year 2006. This sub-committee was composed of Mr. Joseph Agius Mr. Edward Gruppetta, Mr. Renato Zerafa and Ms. Gillian Mifsud (Registrar). After verifying the draft Standing Orders as prepared by the sub-committee, the Council presented the Standing Orders to the Office of the Attorney General for the necessary steps to conform in a legal format. Subsequently, the draft English and Maltese version of the Standing Orders were submitted to the CPCM by the Office of the Attorney General, and then the appointed sub-committee after checking these drafts, tabled the final draft to the Council during the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.
- iii. Ms. Stephanie Vella was appointed as a representative of the CPCM on the Broadcasting Authority Advisory Committee on Medicinal Treatment Advertising.

#### **4. Registers of the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine**

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

<b>ACUPUNCTURISTS</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>CHIROPRACTORS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CLINICAL PERFUSIONISTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DENTAL HYGIENISTS</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>DIETITIANS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICERS</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS</b>	<b>323</b>
<b>NUTRITIONISTS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>OPTOMETRISTS</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ORTHOPTIST</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PHYSIOTHERAPISTS</b>	<b>264</b>
<b>PODIATRISTS</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>RADIOGRAPHERS</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS</b>	<b>102</b>

## **5. Applications for registration**

During the year 2006, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine received the following applications from health care professionals for registration:-

Clinical Perfusionist	1
Chiropractors	3
Dental Technologists	2
Dietitian	1
Medical Laboratory Scientists	6
Nutritionists	2
Physiotherapists	18
Psychotherapists	3
Radiographers	6
Speech Language Pathologists	15.

The majority of the applications were received from Maltese citizens who followed health care related courses held at the Institute of Health Care, University of Malta.

Other applications were submitted by European Union and Non-European Union Citizens.

## **6. New Registrations**

i. During the year 2006, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine approved the registration of:-

1 Chiropractor  
1 Dietitian  
3 Physiotherapists

in accordance with Article 28 (1) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003 (Cap. 464 of the Laws of Malta). These health care professionals hold European Union citizenship.

- 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) since they are all Non European Union citizens.

- iii. During the year 2006, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine received the following applications for temporary registration from

Medical Laboratory Scientists	6
Physiotherapists	13
Radiographers	6
Speech Language Pathologists	15

They had successfully completed their respective course at the University of Malta. All these were given temporary registration up till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 in accordance with Article 28 (3) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003.

After they graduated on the 5th and 6th December 2006 the Council approved their registration in the respective register as from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in accordance with Article 28 (1) (a) of the Health Care Professions Act, 2003. All of these health care professionals were Maltese.

## **7. Decision of the Court of Appeal**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2006 the Court of Appeal submitted its decision regarding an appeal filed by a health care professional who was fined Lm100 by the former Board of the Professions Supplementary to Medicine in December 2002 in connection with ethical misconduct.

The Court of Appeal concluded that since the Medical and Kindred Professions Ordinance (Cap. 31) - the only provision for a health care professional to appeal against a decision made by the Board for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine, specifically states that when 'the BPSM had decided to strike off the name of the person from the respective register, one was to appeal to the President of Malta'. Subsequently the appellant did not have a right to appeal.

Thus the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine won the case and the health care professional had to pay the fine imposed by the Board for the Professions Supplementary to Medicine.

## **8. Codes of Professional and Ethical Conduct**

In April, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine published the Code of Professional and Ethical Conduct for the profession of Chiropractic. Moreover, the other eleven Codes related to the underneath health care professions were amended and the updated versions were also published in April

- Dental Hygiene
- Dental Technology
- Environmental Health
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Orthoptics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Radiography
- Speech Language Pathology.

In September, after various discussions, the Council agreed to update all the Codes of Professional and Ethical Conduct to reflect the following regarding advertising and canvassing:

### **Advertising and canvassing**

1. **Provision of service:** Advertising by *registered health care professional* in respect of professional activities shall be permitted.
2. Advertisement whether written, or audio-visual, should reflect the truth and should not be, fraudulent, misleading, deceptive, self-laudatory, unfair or sensational.
3. Claims should not be made extolling superiority of personal skills, equipment or facilities.
4. While it is correct for *registered health care professionals* to publicise their profession and practice, solicitation is forbidden.
5. Signs and professional plates should be dignified and professionally restrained; indicating the registered *health care professional's* name, qualifications, any other diplomas or degrees presented to the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine, the title of state registered *health care professional* and the hours of attendance.

These Codes of Professional and Ethical Conduct can be viewed on the CPCM website.

## **9. Codes of Practice**

In April, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine finalized and approved the publication of the Codes of Practice of sixteen health care professions namely:

- Acupuncture
- Chiropractic
- Clinical Perfusion
- Dental Hygiene

- Dental Technology
- Dietetics
- Environmental Health
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Nutrition
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Orthoptics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Radiography
- Speech Language Pathology.

These Codes were drafted by the relevant sub-committees and after an intensive evaluation and lengthy discussions by the Council, the Codes were duly published. They can be viewed on the CPCM website.

## **10. Registration of Psychotherapists**

In accordance with the Health Care Professions Act (Cap. 464) the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine is to regulate the profession of Psychotherapy. In November the Council finalized the criteria to be used by the Council when evaluating the applications for registration of Psychotherapists after having consulted relevant stakeholders namely, the Malta Association of Psychotherapists, the Director of Psychiatry at Mount Carmel Hospital and the Head of the Psychology Department at the University of Malta. Subsequently, a notice inviting Psychotherapists to apply to be considered for registration in the Psychotherapy Register kept by the CPCM was issued in the Government Gazette and in local daily newspapers.

The first application for registration as a Psychotherapist was received in December 2006.

## **11. Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine (Standing Orders) Regulations, 2006**

After several discussions, the Council published in the Government Gazette of 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2006 'The Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine (Standing Orders) Regulations' through Legal Notice 314 of 2006. These Regulations include:

- ❖ Records of Appointment or Election of Members.
- ❖ Proceedings of the Council.
- ❖ Registers and Registration:-
  - Format of Registers kept by the Council
  - Format of Registration certificates issued by the Council
  - Application form to be considered for registration with the Council
  - List of documents required to apply for registration with the Council.

The Council inserted the relevant application form and the list of requirements to apply for registration with the Council on the CPCM website.

## **12. Complaints**

During the year 2006, the Council for the Professions Complementary to Medicine received information from both health care professionals and the general public regarding individuals who were not registered with the CPCM and who were allegedly performing the duties of health care professionals regulated by the Council. The Council passed over the information to the competent Authorities including the Employment and Training Corporation, the Public Health Department, etc, so as to investigate and take the necessary steps to stop the abuses. Moreover, in certain cases the Council notified the individual concerned or his/her employer that according to the Health Care Professions Act no one could practice any health care profession regulated by the CPCM if not duly registered with the Council.

### **13. Conferences**

Members of the CPCM and/or the Registrar attended conferences held locally, organized by different government entities.

### **14. Continuing Professional Development Concurrent Practice Fees**

During this year, the Council held numerous discussions regarding the concept of continuing professional development vis-à-vis renewal of registration, the concurrent practice of more than one health care profession and the issuing of fees applicable to those who are applying for registration, renewal of registration, etc.

During the Council meeting held in November, the Council agreed that a national seminar/conference is to be organized in the future to discuss these three important issues. Competent stakeholders including registered health care professionals, their associations/unions and other related Authorities will be invited to attend and give their contribution during this seminar.

Gillian Mifsud  
**REGISTRAR**