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.

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

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
Clinical Perfusionists sub-committee
Mr. Renato Zerafa (Chairperson)
Mr. Peter Gatt

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 (Chairperson)
Mr. Mario Caruana
Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi (Temporary)

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 (Chairperson)
Mr. Joseph Magri
Ms. Lucy Ann Pace

Occupational Therapists
sub-committee
Mr. Joe Agius (Chairperson)
Ms. Stephanie Vella
Ms. Liliana Agius

Optometrists sub-committee
Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson)
Ms. Susannah Chetcuti Ganado
Mr. Kerstien Gabarretta

Orthoptists sub-committee
Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson)
Mr. Martin Francalanza
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

**Psychotherapists sub-committee**  Ms. Magda Magri Naudi
Mr. Andrew Scicluna
Ms. Nicolette Zammit Lupi

Radiographers sub-committee  Mr. Andrew Scicluna (Chairperson)
Mr. Edward Gruppetta
Mr. Paul Bezzina

Speech Language Pathologists  Mr. Victor Grixti (Chairperson)
sub-committee  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 Grupetta, 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 7th 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Perfusionist</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiropractors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Technologists</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dietitian</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Laboratory Scientists</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutritionists</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiotherapists</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychotherapists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiographers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Language Pathologists</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 31st 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 14th 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 14th 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 12th 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.
- 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