

Submission for the public hearing for the panel on Health Service
Reference no: A1399C60

Dietitians are not properly regulated in Hong Kong-it puts the public at risk because they can't identify who is the qualified one and there is no guarantee that even if the person is qualified that they are competent to practice.

On behalf of Hong Kong Academy of Accredited Dietitians Limited, I would like to state some facts which compell dietitian to go for voluntary registration scheme.

- 1) Dietitians urge for Statutory Registration for over 10 years.
- 2) Our profession knows what are the standards so would like to set standards for dietitian professions and monitor for individual's compliance.
- 3) Our vision: promoting the nutritional health and safety of the public through excellence in Dietetic practice.
- 4) Only through AR that we can: i) maintain a register of Accredited Dietitians 認可營養師 ii) to promote and reinforce standards of professional practice and conduct among accredited dietitians iii) to protect the public from malpractice and promote public confidence in the dietetic profession iv) to ensure the competence of Accredited Dietitians in the field by continuing Professional Development v) to handle enquiries, complaints or violation of Dietetic practice legitimately
- 5) The register for accredited dietitian enable the public to identify and seek Dietetic services from qualified personnel or organisation.
- 6) The register is timely managed and can add on accredited dietitians or remove the name of the one who has shown incompetence in practice which contribute harm to the public.
- 7) AR scheme ensures the registrants who practice and adhere to and maintain a high standard of professional practice by i) Scope of practice ii) Competency standards iii) code of ethics iv) safety in dietitian practice
- 8) Mandatory Continue Professional Development and Education (CDE) to achieve and upkeep professional standards.
- 9) A structured body (HKAAD council) which has good governance to endure qualification and standards are implemented and complied.
- 10) Document control process to guarantee all standards, policies and procedures are reviewed and kept up to date.
- 11) Formal compliant procedures are in place if there is disputes about professional qualification for registrations or failure to practice according to the standards set by HKAAD.

In response to the above-mentioning facts, the HKAAD support the AR scheme. Though we have spent a lot of time and efforts in preparation for the accreditation, we found that it is worth the time and efforts because we cannot find an alternative way which we can do to safeguard our conviction as laid down in our vision and missions.

AR will only be effective with the full support of DH. If DH don't recognise AR Scheme, it is unlikely to work.

As this AR scheme is only a voluntary scheme, HKAAD hope very much that the HKSAR government should set up the Statutory Registration Scheme as the other allied health professionals such as the physiotherapist and occupational therapists etc.. This is the only way we can have 100% guaranteed professionals registration whereby the public interests can truly be protected.

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HKAAD Vice Chairperson
30 November 2018