

Statement from ATMS: Friday 1 May 2015

## **Australian Traditional Medicine Society does not condone or recognise ‘slapping therapy’ as a form of Traditional Chinese Medicine**

The Australian Traditional-Medicine Society (ATMS) is extremely distressed to hear of the traumatic death of seven year old Aidan Fenton after reportedly undertaking an unsanctioned practice known as ‘slapping therapy’ conducted in a workshop led by disgraced and self-described ‘healer’ Hongchi Xiao.

ATMS does not condone Mr Xiao’s practice and methods and stresses that these should not and cannot be in any way associated with recognised methods of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Traditional Chinese Medicine is defined by the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA) as, “A system of primary health care that includes acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, remedial massage (anmo tuina), exercise and breathing therapy (such as qigong), and diet and lifestyle advice.”

Traditional Chinese Medicine is regulated by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Under the AHPRA’s guidelines, it is an offence to declare a protected title. In Chinese medicine, five titles are protected under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (which is in force in each state and territory of Australia). These being:

- Chinese medicine practitioner
- Chinese herbal dispenser
- Chinese herbal medicine practitioner
- Oriental medicine practitioner
- Acupuncturist

Mr Xiao is not certified under any of these protected titles and it must be noted that the method used by Mr Xiao, “Paيدا Lajin”, is not one recognised by ATMS, AACMA, AHPRA, nor any other reputable industry regulatory body. ATMS under no circumstances condones its use by any natural medicine or Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioner and is appalled to see that Mr Xiao claimed an indisputably false connection between his methods and Traditional Chinese Medicine and in doing so abused those who work tirelessly to uphold the natural medicine industry’s integrity and standards.

ATMS unequivocally urges consumers to always seek out accredited practitioners of natural medicine. One of ATMS’ driving purposes and missions is to ensure the public’s safety by providing a means to locate and seek treatment from accredited practitioners. Consumers are advised that they may do so via associations and organisations such as [ATMS](#), [AACMA](#) and [AHPRA](#).

Anyone who has concerns regarding Traditional Medicine and the accreditation and regulation of practitioners and practices, should direct their enquiries to AHPRA via <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/Contact-Us.aspx>.

Natural medicine is not in conflict with conventional medical treatment according to ATMS, because accredited practitioners cannot make recommendations on any clients’ existing medical treatment being administered by a registered doctor. Instead, methods of treatment can work complementary to one another.

ATMS expresses condolences and sadness over the Fenton family’s loss over what is a severely upsetting and traumatic incident.