

Putting Professional Practice for Unregistered Healthcare Practitioners into Context

So you've completed some training in crystals for health or another form of unregulated healthcare, have enjoyed working on yourself and your family/friends, and you're now wondering what you need to do to start your own professional practice. Or maybe you've been in professional practice for a while and you're unsure if you are actually meeting all your legal requirements for running your practice and dealing responsibly and ethically with your clients.

The introduction of the National Code of Conduct for Healthcare Workers means that there is an additional layer of legally binding responsibility now, on top of all the other things like record keeping, privacy and confidentiality, copyright law, the Health and Safety Act, Working with Children and more.

Chances are, when you did your training, you didn't learn about these things in any great detail - and perhaps, you didn't learn about them at all.

A simple way to ensure you are up to date and compliant, in both your client care and legal obligations, is to complete *Professional Practice - Treatment Delivery & Practice Administration*.

The course is run via an online education portal where you complete assignments and activities which are submitted electronically and assessed.

An additional option is the recently developed hybrid delivery course where a weekend intensive via Google Meet is conducted and other aspects of study are completed using the online portal. This delivery method will achieve a faster result than distance education.

Both options are cost effective and provide you with practical skills and knowledge so that you meet the standards for professional practice required by insurance companies, professional associations, and of course, the legally binding obligations imposed by State and Federal Governments for Healthcare Workers. In addition, you will be guided on small business and clinic administrative skills, the various forms of State and Federal regulations that govern business activities, and have the opportunity to create materials that you will be able to use in your practice.

You will even learn how to set up your clinic or treatment space so that it complies with infection control, hygiene, and health and safety requirements as well as being a welcoming and professional environment - a good place for you to work and for clients to visit.

Sue Lake-Harris was originally commissioned by the *Council of Australian Reiki Organisations Ltd (CARO)*, to design and write the course with direct application for Reiki practitioners. With tertiary qualifications in education and many years working for the Commonwealth Government in course design and education, not to mention her own experiences as a professional practitioner of Reiki since 1998, and Reiki teacher since 2008, Sue has remained abreast of developments in the world of professional practice and reviews the course content regularly to keep it up to date with changing regulatory and association requirements.

She realised that other practitioners of other forms of healthcare could also benefit from the material in the course that related to all modalities that are not formally regulated, yet are subject to the National Code of Conduct for Healthcare Workers.

On this basis, Sue amended the material to make it suitable as a generic course offering for those in holistic healthcare modalities.

Which Study Method is Right for You?

There are benefits to the online portal option...

- You complete your assignments and activities in your own time at the pace that is right for you
- Course materials are available via the portal and you complete each section before moving on to the next, building on the skills and knowledge acquired in the earlier sections
- Submission of completed assignments and activities is easily done via e-mail
- Your facilitator is available by e-mail, video chat or phone to assist you - if you are unsure of anything you can always ask
- Coursework can be slotted in around family and other work commitments
- It is somewhat cheaper than weekend intensives and you can start at any time
- If you find it easy to remain self-disciplined in order to complete tasks, this training method will suit you.

There are benefits to the hybrid delivery option...

- It's easier to remain motivated and complete work when you are scheduled to work via Google Meet directly with the facilitator and other students.
- Having a weekend committed to completion of activities gives you a deadline to complete your pre-requisites and you won't be tempted to push out your finishing date.
- You can get answers to questions immediately when attending the Google Meet live sessions over the weekend - you don't have to send an e-mail and then wait.

I'm Already a Professional Practitioner - why Should I do this Course?

- You will be sure you comply with all relevant, current legislation that affects you as a Healthcare Worker
- The course provides valuable on-going professional development
- It helps you retain currency with your clinic and administrative skills
- It is reassuring to clients to see that you have professional training **in addition** to your modality training
- You receive excellent materials that you can refer to when needed
- As you are already in a healthcare occupation, your fees for this course may be tax deductible

Distance Education or Hybrid - What's the Difference?

Distance education and hybrid delivery covers exactly the same content - the difference is in the time it will take you to finish. It will be faster to complete the course if you attend the hybrid delivery weekend. The hybrid version allows for some modules to be completed faster than the distance education option as they can be done via Google Meet in a small group format, with Sue assessing each participant as you go.

If a hard copy of the course material is required and the course needs to be carried out using standard post, the cost will be higher to recover these additional expenses. This is usually only required if a student lives in an area with unreliable internet access.

How are the assessments handled?

Assessment provides valuable personal feedback to students and each section must be successfully completed – just as it would be in any form of competency-based training. Help is available from Sue, and if any section is not completed successfully, the student can re-visit the content and exercises with assistance from the course facilitator. Successful completion of all the exercises is required before a certificate is provided.

Assessments involve written activities, documented practice sessions, demonstrations and so on. Distance students will need to submit some material using photographs and/or video, which can be uploaded to Dropbox or e-mailed. The hybrid version means some assessment options can be observed directly using Google Meet, reducing the time needed to complete modules in comparison to doing the entire course using the online portal.

You can re-do activities/receive assistance on anything you find difficult in order to ensure success.

How do I enrol?

Contact Sue to register your interest and let her know what version you prefer – she'll then contact you with up-to-date enrolment options and any applicable course dates: reikieducation@outlook.com.

It is likely, because of Sue's busy schedule, that there will be no hybrid weekends conducted until late in 2023.