

A Brief

# Regional Report from South Pacific

CGCM 2019

# Australia

## Government

- Starting from 1 April 2019, **certain natural therapies** no longer covered by private health insurance, including
  - aromatherapy, Western herbalism, homeopathy, naturopathy, Pilates, reflexology, Rolfing (soft tissue manipulation), Shiatsu, **tai chi**, yoga, and half a dozen others.
  - **Chinese medicine**, chiropractic and massage therapy are **not on the list**, and can still attract private health insurance benefits.

# Australia

## NICM (Western Sydney University)

- NICM has moved to Westmead precinct. It is a key precinct to collaborate with alliance partners in medical and healthcare innovation.
- NICM has earned a 5 in ERA ranking.
  - ERA is an acronym of Excellence in Research for Australia.
  - A “5” indicates the research is above the world standard.
- NICM received from The Jacka Foundation of Natural Therapies a gift of \$6 million. The gift will support a new conference centre, in addition to ongoing research.
- New database underway for Chinese herbal-drug interactions
  - IN partnership with UnityHealth will develop and disseminate objective evidence-based information on Chinese herb-drug interactions.

# Australia

## University of Sydney

- Projects:
  - Text mining of stroke outcomes from the electronic health records in an integrative stroke unit.
  - Using computational methods<sup>1</sup> to address typical noisy and incomplete health data in data analysis
  - Building knowledge graph by extracting relationship from literature, hoping to enable comparison and revelation of the problem under study.
  - To support systematic review and meta analysis by extracting information from tables in literature.

<sup>1</sup>Multiple Instance Learning and Deep Learning

# Australia

## UTS



## Teaching of TCM in UTS is under the axe

- UTS is one of the three Australian universities offering degree courses in TCM

## 'The course is making money': University to drop Chinese medicine degree

Jordan Baker • July 25, 2019 — 6.34pm

The University of Technology Sydney intends to stop offering its degree in traditional Chinese medicine after more than 25 years, angering students and alumni who say the quality of Sydney's acupuncture and herbalist services will suffer.

A review of the Chinese Medicine Department found it should be wound up at the end of 2021 because it was no longer financially viable, did not produce enough research, and did not fit with the "strategic direction" of the science faculty.



Students are upset that the University of Technology, Sydney, plans to close its Chinese Medicine Department. *Peter Rae*