

Critical Public Health and Health Services Research in Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine

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Complementary medicine is a wide range of practices, technologies and products not traditionally associated with the medical profession or medical curriculum

acupuncture, massage therapy, naturopathy, western herbal medicine, chiropractic, osteopathy, yoga, meditation

Practitioner-led and administered or self-care

Exotic or Domestic

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



Complementary medicine use by the Australian population: a critical mixed studies systematic review of utilisation, perceptions and factors associated with use

Rebecca Reid², Amie Steel^{1,2*}, Jon Wardle¹, Andrea Trubody² and Jon Adams¹

CM use is widespread across all socio-demographics

CM users more likely to be female, middle-aged, higher educated

CM use is higher in rural Australia (especially manual therapies)

CM use are more likely to seek help with chronic illness

Vast majority of CM use concurrent / additional to conventional medical care

Between 1/3 to >1/2 of CM users do not disclose their CM use to conventional health care providers

Substantial percentage of CM users seek information from informal sources

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CRITICAL METHODS, TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH



Australian Government

Australian Research Council



Public Health Association

AUSTRALIA



Australian Government

**National Health and
Medical Research Council**

N H M R C

Currently over 25 academic staff

>\$15M in external competitive funding including 18 NHMRC / ARC grants

7 NHMRC / ARC competitive research fellowships (>\$3M) from only 11 ever

Leading over 40 projects nationally and internationally

>750+ peer-reviewed publications to date

Largest concentration of PhD students on critical CM in Australia (30+)

Invited expert committee members for World Health Organisation, Therapeutic Goods Administration, MBS Review (Primary Care)

Broadening the critical examination of TCIM

- Move beyond and supplement focus upon efficacy and RCT design
- No one system of medicine has a monopoly upon healing anywhere in the world
- TCIM use and practice are themselves public health and health services issues
- Safety, efficiency and co-ordination of care
- Communication, decision-making & (non)disclosure
- Provides transdisciplinary approach and perspective (implementation and de-implementation)
- Opportunities of TCIM for public health and patient care





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Adams J, Andrews G, Barnes J, Broom A,
Magin P. (Eds)(2012) ***Traditional, Complementary
and Integrative Medicine: An International Reader.***



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