Reviewer's report

Title: CAM practitioners in the Australian health workforce: an underutilized resource

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Reviewer: Marie Pirotta

Reviewer's report:

Thank-you for the opportunity to review this manuscript.
This paper provides a good update about the current situation in Australia regarding CAM practitioners.
I think the paper will be of interest to a broad biomedical audience as it highlights the lack of data about numbers of CAM practitioners, details of how practitioners work and their qualifications in Australia.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS
The author argues that there is a role for CAM practitioners in the Australian health care system that is currently not fully utilised. She does acknowledge a series of issues that act as barriers to this utilisation.
However, in my opinion, the issue of lack of nationally agreed curricula and standards for the non-registered CAM practitioners is a major hurdle and any consideration of better utilisation of these groups is really not possible until this is addressed. Sufficient weight has not been given to this issue.
There have been attempts within the naturopathic groups to address these issues as a prelude to obtaining registration and it would be useful if these moves were covered in this paper.
The paper may benefit by considering registered and non-registered groups separately.
The piece is well argued and referenced, and also well written although there is an odd part of a sentence hanging in the first paragraph on page 10.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests