

Communiqué

Fourth Meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

27 October 2011

The fourth meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on Tuesday, 25 October 2011 at the National AHPRA office in Melbourne.

The Board is making excellent progress against its demanding work plan to prepare for the commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012.

Stakeholder Feedback on draft registration standards

The Board received submissions from over 360 persons and organisations on its consultation paper, and thanks stakeholders for their interest and valuable contributions. Those submissions not marked confidential are available on the Board's website.

All feedback was considered by the Board as part of reviewing the draft registration standards. These draft registration standard drafts are now being prepared, taking the submissions into account, for submission to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) for its endorsement.

It is anticipated that the Ministerial Council will consider the proposals in December 2011. If the Ministerial Council approves the Standards, they will be published on the CMBA website before early applications are invited in February 2012, and before commencement of national registration on 1 July 2012.

Additional standards, codes and guidelines

At the meeting, the Board decided to develop for consultation:

- guidelines on mandatory notifications, which explain the requirements under the national law for health practitioners, employers and education providers to make compulsory notifications about health practitioners in certain circumstances;
- guidelines on the advertising of services provided by registered practitioners;
- a code of conduct for Chinese medicine;
- guidelines on patient record keeping; and
- guidelines on Continuing Professional Development.

The Board will release these draft documents for public consultation in November 2011.

Communication strategy

The Board continues to follow its communication strategy, and plans to disseminate information about national registration to both registered and unregistered practitioners in all jurisdictions.

Accreditation arrangements

The Board discussed accreditation arrangements and will be consulting shortly about the composition of its Accreditation Committee.

Finance

Work on the Board's budget and the registration fees for 2012–2013 is progressing well. This will be finalised after the *Service, Assets and Liabilities Transfer* arrangements and the due diligence process for the *Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria* (CMRB) has been completed. These processes will confirm reserves to be transferred to the national board from the CMRB. The proposed fees will be provided to Health Ministers for their approval before publication.

There will be two fees, an one-off non-refundable initial application fee and an annual registration renewal fee. Applicants apply for registration in one division (such as acupuncturist) will be lower than those applying for registration in more than one division (such as acupuncturists and Chinese herbal medicine practitioner).

Practitioners who are registered with the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria on 30 June 2012 will automatically transition to the national scheme. These people will not need to apply for registration, or pay the one-off non-refundable initial application fee, however they will be required to pay their annual registration renewal fee.

Those practitioners who are not registered with the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria on 30 June 2012 will be required to pay both the one-off non-refundable initial application fee and the annual registration renewal fee. The one-off non-refundable initial application fee covers the administrative costs associated with processing new applications.

The Board acknowledged the continuing support provided by the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria and the NRAS 2012 Project Team in preparing for the national registration of Chinese Medicine in 2012.

Professor Charlie Xue

Chair

27 October 2011