

## Communiqué

### First Meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

26 July 2011

#### The first meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

The nine members of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) are Professor Charlie Xue (Chair), Ms Jenny Chou, Mrs Alison Christou, Mr Stephen Janz, Ms Di Wen Lai, Professor Vivian Lin, Mr Haisong Wang, Dr Xiaoshu Zhu and Professor Craig Zimitat. The Board is appointed under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board met for the first time on 26 July 2011 in Melbourne. The Chair and members thanked the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for welcoming them to their new roles and for their ongoing support for national registration and course accreditation for the Chinese medicine profession.

The Board acknowledged the challenges and opportunities over the next 11 months as it undertakes important work to prepare the profession for entry into the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the national scheme). Professor Xue welcomed the first meeting as another significant step on the path towards national registration. The Board looks forward to working in the public interest to build a robust system of professional regulation for the Chinese Medicine profession and the community.

The Board encourages all interested parties to have their say on proposals for registration, during important public consultation that will occur over the coming months.

#### Communication

The Board recognised the importance of communicating with the profession as it prepares for national registration. In the next couple of months, the Board will establish its own website to provide information to the profession about its activities and important updates about national registration. In the meantime, information will be available on the NRAS2012 Project website ([www.nras2012.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.nras2012.ahpra.gov.au)) (also accessible through a link on the National Boards page on the AHPRA website [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)).

#### Registration Standards

At its first meeting, the Board agreed to prepare to consult in coming months on proposals for the five mandatory registration standards the Board must set under the national scheme:

- professional Indemnity Insurance
- criminal history of applicants for registration
- continuing Professional Development
- English language skills
- recency of practice.

The Board will provide more information as it is available.

## **Transition and grandparenting of Chinese medicine practitioners**

The Board also considered proposals for how individual registrants (from Victoria) will transition from their current registration to the new registration under the National Law. The Board looks forward to working with the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria during the transition from state-based registration of Chinese medicine practitioners towards national registration of the profession.

The Board is keenly aware that practitioners in all other states and territories of Australia have not previously been registered. It decided to develop a grandparenting registration standard to provide for the first registration of these practitioners under the national scheme, recognising that these practitioners will vary in their qualifications, knowledge and experience.

## **Establishing State and Territory Boards and/or National Committees of the National Board**

Each National Board must decide on its committee structure to help it to carry out its functions. This has a direct bearing on the cost of regulation and therefore on registrant fees. The Board considered the merits of various models presented and agreed that no State or Territory (or Regional) Boards would be established for Chinese medicine. It will establish national committees for registration and notifications, and other committees as needed to help the board to exercise its functions of protecting the public and facilitating access to health services. The actual committee structure will be decided in due course.

## **Accreditation**

The Board noted that the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (AHWMC) has decided to leave the decision on accreditation arrangements to each new Board. Based on the outcomes of the consultation conducted earlier this year, the Board agreed to establish a committee to undertake accreditation functions and will undertake further work on this option over coming months.

The Board appreciated the considerable support provided for its first meeting. It acknowledged the work done by the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria, AHPRA and the profession, including those who participated in consultations about the Chinese Medicine profession entering the national scheme. The Board looks forward to working with all stakeholders in the next stages of its work.

## **Registration Period**

The Board agreed that the registration period for Chinese Medicine practitioners will be from 1 December to 30 November each year.

Professor Charlie Xue

Chair

4 August 2011