

Communiqué

The 55th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 21 June 2016 in Sydney.

This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting. It is also published on the Board's [website](#) and an announcement via email is sent to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward the communiqué to colleagues who may be interested in the work of the Board.

Forums for registered Chinese medicine practitioners

The Board recently held a number of face-to-face practitioner forums to engage more directly with the profession. This had been identified as a strategic priority for the Board.

The Board will publish the PowerPoint presentation (with a voice-over) and an accompanying handout prepared to address common questions raised by the profession. If you were unable to attend the forums you will be able access this resource as a professional issues continuing professional development (CPD) activity.

Further details will soon be available on the [Board's website](#).

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia newsletter published

The Board's latest newsletter reminds practitioners about their obligations under the [Code of conduct](#) in relation to professional boundaries, announces the approval of new programs of study for the purpose of registration, and provides the latest data on the profession. Read the full [newsletter](#).

New appointments to the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee

The Board is responsible for the registration of Chinese medicine practitioners, setting professional standards and managing notifications (complaints) about Chinese medicine practitioners. The Board established an accreditation committee to undertake accreditation functions.

Section 42 of the National Law defines accreditation functions under the National Scheme. In summary, these are:

- development of accreditation standards to submit to the Board for approval
- assessing programs of study and education providers
- assessing overseas authorities
- overseeing assessment of overseas qualified practitioners, and
- making recommendations and giving advice to the National Board.

The Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee (CMAC) has an important function in the protection of the public and regulation of the profession. The terms of the current committee members ended on 30 June 2016. The Board, which is focussed on efficient operations, decided to reduce the size of the committee and has appointed the following persons as members:

- Dr Meeuwis Boelen (Chair)
- Associate Prof Christopher Zaslowski
- Dr Jian Sheng (Jerry) Zhang
- Dr Wei Hong (Angela) Wang, and
- Mr David Schievenin.

CMAC assesses programs against [accreditation standards](#), makes decisions about accreditation, and monitors the programs and education providers. Based on recommendations from CMAC, the Board makes decisions about approval of programs for registration purposes. Graduates of approved programs are qualified for registration.

Registration standards review

Review of the Board's professional indemnity insurance, continuing professional development and recency of practice standards, as part of the cross-professional review on registration standards, will soon start with preliminary consultation. Consultation papers will be sent to key stakeholders. Feedback at this early stage will help to inform the development of the revised registration standards.

The Board welcomes feedback from key and interested stakeholders both during the preliminary and public consultation phases of this review.

Family and domestic violence – Queensland and Victoria state reports released

The Board is committed to being part of the solution to major health and social problems as best we can within our mandate as a regulator of Chinese medicine practitioners.

Everyone should feel safe at home. Tragically, many people across Australia face great danger at home from the people closest to them. Family violence can affect anyone, regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity or sexuality and it not only impacts on victims, but also their family, friends and the wider society. Health practitioners who often work closely with families could also be in the right place at the right time to help families who fall victim to such violence.

Two significant reports have recently been released on this issue, including one in Queensland and one in Victoria.

The Queensland Government commissioned a special taskforce to conduct an inquiry into domestic and family violence in Queensland. The Taskforce's report '[Not Now Not Ever - putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland](#)' made 140 recommendations to Queensland and national bodies, including three to the National Scheme.

In Victoria, the Royal Commission into Family Violence released its [report and recommendations](#) on how Victoria's response to family violence can be improved. The Commission's 227 recommendations are directed at improving the foundations of the current system, seizing opportunities to transform the way that we respond to family violence, and building the structures that will guide and oversee a long-term reform program that deals with all aspects of family violence. Though there were no specific recommendations directed towards AHPRA or National Boards, several referenced the important role the health system and health professional bodies have to play in influencing child safeguarding and in improving the accreditation and training for health practitioners in this area.

National awareness campaign

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway.

Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner.

The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

News from AHPRA

We work in partnership with AHPRA and the other thirteen National Boards to deliver the [National Scheme](#).

While we publish [news](#) specific to our work in regulating Chinese medicine practitioners, AHPRA [publishes](#) updates on work from across the National Scheme. This includes communiqués from key meetings with government and other stakeholders.

We encourage you to review these from time to time. You are also able to subscribe to the AHPRA newsletter by [registering here](#).

Top tips for using the register

The register of practitioners is core to the work of AHPRA and the National Boards because it provides up-to-date information about every registered health practitioner, including Chinese medicine practitioners. To help the public and employers get the most out of the register, we have developed these tips. In particular, the tips remind anyone responsible for recruiting health practitioners how to use the register to verify a practitioner's registration status.

Updating your contact details

To check or update the contact details you have lodged with AHPRA, access the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and click Update your contact details. Enter your user ID, date of birth and password (please note that your user ID is not your registration number). If you don't remember your user ID or password, contact us online or phone 1300 419 495 for help.

Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

AHPRA uses Twitter to encourage a greater overall response to National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

Important information for practitioners

The Board publishes a range of information about registration, including its expectations of practitioners, at www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au.

For more details or help with questions about your registration, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or [contact AHPRA](#), send an [online enquiry form](#) or call on 1300 419 495.

Professor Charlie C Xue

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

1 July 2016

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia is the regulator of Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia and acts to protect the public by ensuring that suitably qualified and competent Chinese medicine practitioners are registered. The Board is responsible for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines for Chinese medicine practitioners and managing notifications (complaints) about Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicine students. The Board does this through its powers under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The Board's work in regulating Australia's Chinese medicine practitioners in the public interest is underpinned by [regulatory principles](#), which encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation.*

**Except in NSW and Qld which have co-regulatory arrangements.*