

Communiqué

The 29th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 25 February 2014 at AHPRA's National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting.

This communiqué is published on the Board website and an announcement to a broad range of stakeholders is also sent by email. Please forward it to colleagues who may be interested in the work of the National Board.

AHPRA update

Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

The Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee's inquiry into the performance of AHPRA is now due to report on 13 March 2014.

Annual report

The 2012/13 [Annual Report](#) of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards has been published. Pages 28-32 contain specific information provided by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

Registration update

Grandparenting provisions end mid 2015

Registration under the national scheme is a requirement in all state and territories in Australia.

The National Board's grandparenting provisions, which were put in place at the time the Chinese medicine became a regulated health profession in 2012, will finish in June 2015.

The Board put the grandparenting provisions in place to ensure that practitioners who are legitimately practising the profession (particularly in those jurisdictions that did not require registration before July 2012) would not be unjustly disadvantaged by it becoming nationally registered by the National Board.

The grandparenting provisions allow practitioners who have not been previously registered or do not hold an approved program of study qualification to apply for registration with the National Board.

As these provisions will be coming to an end in June 2015, anyone who thinks they may be eligible are strongly encouraged to apply sooner rather than later, as processing applications can take some time.

To find out more, please refer to the National Board's [Grandparenting and general registration eligibility registration standard](#).

2013 Practitioner registration renewal

Chinese medicine registrants opened early September 2013. All registrants with general and non-practising registration were due to renew by 30 November 2013.

Under the National Law, all registered Chinese medicine practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year and there is no option for AHPRA or the National Board to renew your registration after it has lapsed without a new application.

If you haven't renewed already, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the *Your Account* tab on the top right of the AHPRA website.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) are published on the website to answer any common queries you may have about registration renewal. A [Renewal fact sheet for Chinese medicine practitioners with conditions on registration](#) has also been published. It explains the assessment process and answers any concerns practitioners might have about delays in their registration being renewed if AHPRA requests more information. At the end of the renewal cycle, 3,913 out of 4,113 Chinese medicine practitioners renewed their registration which represents approximately a 5% attrition or discontinuation of registration. This is in line with the attrition rates in other professions under the national scheme.

Notification update

The Notification Committee considered 3 matters at its January 2014 meeting. There are currently 11 open notification matters, including compliance matters involving Chinese medicine practitioners.

Policies, Standards, Codes and Guidelines Committee (Policy Committee)

The Board issued two draft guidelines for preliminary consultation: the proposed *Guidelines on writing prescriptions, labelling and dispensing for Chinese medicine practitioners*, and the proposed *Supervision guidelines for Chinese medicine practitioners*.

Preliminary consultation closed in February 2014, and feedback on those draft guidelines has been received from key stakeholders, National Boards and AHPRA operational staff. That feedback will be integrated, and both guidelines will be issued for public consultation in the near future.

New professional standards for practitioners

The National Board published revised and new codes, guidelines and policies in February 2014. Those documents are the:

- revised *Guidelines for advertising regulated health services*;
- revised *Code of conduct*;
- revised *Guidelines for mandatory notifications*; and
- new *Social media policy*.

These codes, guidelines and policies will come in to effect in mid-March 2014, and all Chinese medicine practitioners will need to meet the requirements outlined in these documents.

The National Board consulted widely on the draft versions of these documents in 2013 (and continue to consult on other important documents; see the *Consultations* page on the website).

The media release relating to the revised and new codes, guidelines and policies can be accessed at: <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2014-02-13-media-release.aspx>. The documents are also accessible via that link.

Information on the consultation process and documents can be accessed at: www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx

Audit update

AHPRA and the Board are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration; they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that the Board and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking these declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. The audit help to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards of practice and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has commenced. If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard.

Further information will be available soon on the Board's website.

Provisional information has been provided to practitioners in the Board's latest newsletter. AHPRA has released generic audit information on its [website](#).

Board membership update

Under the National Scheme, Board members are appointed for a period of up to three years, that is, the first term for all members who were appointed in July 2011 will expire in the end of 2014. Existing Board members, like new applicants, are required to apply for positions in the Board from July 2014.

Applications have now closed for appointments to vacancies for members and Chair to the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia, in the categories of health practitioner members and community members.

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council), under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act as in force in each state and territory. Appointments and reappointments are for up to three years as decided by the Ministerial Council.

The Board expects the relevant appointments to be made prior to 1 July 2014.

Accreditation matters

The Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee has made appointments to the list of approved assessors who may undertake accreditation assessments. The Accreditation Committee expects to receive the first application for accreditation assessment from an education provider in the near future.

Newsletter

The latest newsletter was published on 21 February 2014. It was emailed to registered practitioners, and is available on the Board website at <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2014-02-21-newsletter.aspx>.

Important information for practitioners

The National 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 please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Charlie Xue

Chair
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
24 March 2014