

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

August 2018 meeting

The 78th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 28 August 2018 in Melbourne.

This communiqué provides details on the main 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 Board's work.

Advertising requirements

The Board and AHPRA continue to work with the profession on advertising requirements. A bilingual presentation was conducted in Canberra on 5 August 2018.

Joint review of accreditation standards

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine and Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committees (Accreditation Committees) are undertaking a joint review of their current accreditation standards. Accreditation standards are used to assess whether a program of study (and the education provider delivering the program) provide graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession competently and safely in Australia.

The Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee has published a consultation paper on its draft revised accreditation standards.

Public consultation has commenced and will **close on 15 October 2018**.

The consultation paper is available on the [Accreditation consultations page](#), and the Committee invites feedback from education providers, practitioners, other stakeholders and the community.

Please provide any written submissions by email to accreditationstandards.review@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on **15 October 2018**.

Submissions to this consultation may be published on the AHPRA website. There may be circumstances under which submissions may not be published. Published submissions will include the names of individuals and/or organisations that made the submission unless confidentiality is requested.

Release of consultation paper on proposed legislative updates to national registration

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) welcomes the release of a consultation paper by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) on keeping the national legislation on the registration and accreditation of health practitioners across Australia up to date.

The [consultation paper](#), *Regulation of Australia's health professions: keeping the National Law up to date and fit for purpose*, outlines important potential changes to the National Law.

National Boards and AHPRA will be looking at the paper carefully and providing considered responses on the proposals, and we encourage others to provide considered feedback via the submissions process by the closing date on **31 October 2018**.

Vexing not vexatious: research finds more risk in not reporting

Independent research commissioned by AHPRA has looked internationally at vexatious complaints, finding these are very rare-

The report found that the number of vexatious complaints dealt with in Australia and internationally is very small, less than one per cent, but they have a big effect on everyone involved. The research also confirms that the risk of someone not reporting their concerns is greater than if the complaint turns out to be vexatious.

Most of Australia's 700,000 registered health practitioners provide great care, but patients also have the right to make a complaint when things don't go so well.

The best available evidence suggests that truly vexatious complaints are very rare, and that under-reporting of well-founded concerns is likely a far greater problem.

There is a common misconception that a complaint must have been vexatious if it resulted in no regulatory action. However, a decision by a National Board not to take regulatory action does not mean that the complaint was unfounded or made in bad faith. For example, a risk to the public may have been adequately addressed between the time the complaint was made and when the investigation concluded.

The report will be used to inform best practice for reducing, identifying, and managing vexatious complaints and helps to identify opportunities to work with others to help reduce their frequency and adverse consequences.

The report is available on the AHPRA website under [Published research](#).

AHPRA designated a WHO Collaborating Centre for health workforce regulation across the Western Pacific

AHPRA's commitment to best practice and learning from others has received a boost, with an official designation from the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Collaborating Centre for health workforce regulation. This designation means that AHPRA, in partnership with National Boards, will work with WHO and its Member States in the Western Pacific to strengthen regulatory practice across the region.

Crucial to the work of the Collaborating Centre is establishing a network of regulators across South East Asia and the Western Pacific. The network is expected to work on improving regulatory standards.

The designation as a Collaboration Centre is timely, with the Australian Government Department of Health and WHO recently beginning a four-year Cooperation Strategy. Strengthening regulation in health services, health workforce, radiation, food safety and health products is an identified priority for the joint work in this Cooperation Strategy. You can access the Cooperation Strategy on [WHO's information-sharing site](#). Queries about AHPRA's work as a Collaboration Centre can be directed to WHO_CC_HWR@ahpra.gov.au.

Workforce milestone: 700,000th health practitioner registered

AHPRA and the National Boards have welcomed the 700,000th health practitioner to be registered in Australia since the start of national regulation in 2010 – Victoria-based enrolled nurse Alison Tregagle.

Reaching the 700,000th registered practitioner milestone comes almost eight years after the launch of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010, when AHPRA and the National Boards for 10 health professions began their regulatory partnership governed by a nationally consistent National Law.

In 2010, the registration of more than half-a-million health practitioners transferred to the new National Scheme, with a further four health professions joining in 2012 and growing the number of registered health practitioners to more than 590,000 for the year to 30 June 2013. This year the number will grow further as paramedics join the National Scheme in late 2018.

AHPRA's first annual report showed there were slightly more than 530,000 registered health practitioners across Australia as at 30 June 2011, so hitting 700,000 represents significant growth over that time. It demonstrates that regulation is enabling the growth and mobility of a registered health workforce to support the delivery of health services to Australians.

At 30 June 2018, there were 4,882 registered Chinese medicine practitioners.

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 [home page](#) 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 can't remember your user ID or password, [contact us online](#), or phone 1300 419 495 for help.

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



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 Scheme, refer to information published on www.ahpra.gov.au or [contact AHPRA](#), send an [online enquiry form](#) or call on 1300 419 495.

Dr David Graham

Deputy Chair

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

28 August 2018

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 (the National Law), as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National 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.*

