

## Communiqué

### 24th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia, 30 August 2013

The August meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 30 August 2013 at the Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne. This communiqué provides key decisions made at this meeting.

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

#### AHPRA Update

##### **Business Plan for 2013/14**

This year celebrates the third anniversary of AHPRA. The Business Plan for 2013/14 has been published. It outlines how AHPRA will achieve its goals in implementing the National Scheme for health professionals. The Business Plan can be found at: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/AHPRA-Publications.aspx>

##### **Queensland Health Ombudsman**

On 20 August 2013, the Queensland Parliament passed the Health Ombudsman Bill 2013. This means that Queensland will become a co-regulatory jurisdiction under the National Scheme and will establish a new complaints management system in Queensland.

AHPRA and the National Boards will seek to work closely with Queensland Health on the transition arrangements in the lead up to the establishment of the Health Ombudsman, which is expected to be fully established by 1 July 2014.

##### **Singapore delegation**

A delegation from the Singapore Ministry of Health visited AHPRA and the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia earlier in August, to share knowledge and learn about our approach to regulating that profession. Singapore has been regulating Chinese medicine practitioners for 12 years and is now looking at implementing compulsory continuing education. Their delegation was keen to learn about our use of registration standards, the introduction of audit to check compliance with standards, and other approaches in the National Scheme to promoting professional standards. With four languages commonly used in Singapore, our approach to English language skills testing, to consultations and translation was a particular interest.

##### **Preparations for the 2013 Annual Report**

The next AHPRA and National Boards Annual Report is due for submission to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the AHWMC) by 30 September 2013, so that individual Ministers can make arrangements to table the report in the Parliaments of each state, territory and the Commonwealth. Tabling is a requirement under the National Law.

The planned publication date is 1 November 2013.

##### **National All Boards Meeting 2013**

Last weekend saw the fourth annual All Boards meeting for the National Scheme, held in Melbourne. It brought together over 300 people drawn from the National Boards, representatives of state and territory Boards and committees, the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA staff, NSW Council representatives, accreditation authorities and NZ partners. The meeting was designed to help understand and respond to our wider regulatory workforce reform environment and encourage cross-professional learning through sharing ideas, innovation and networking. It followed last week's meetings of National Boards and the Agency Management Committee.

## Registration Committee Update

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia's Registration Committee (the Registration Committee) has registered over 4,070 Chinese medicine practitioners across Australia.

The Registration Committee considered a paper presented by the Education Conditions Working Group. The Board noted that the Registration Committee have agreed and adopted a list of education courses and units that will address the registration conditions on a practitioner's general registration. The Board have authorised the release of the list of education courses and units to the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia website.

Information to assist registered practitioners with education conditions on their registration, will be published within the next month, and further communication with education providers will be progressed.

## Notification Committee Update

The Notification Committee consider notification matters and compliance matters. The Board noted there are currently 19 open notification matters and 9 compliance matters involving Chinese medicine practitioners.

Jurisdictions currently without any open notifications include the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Tasmania. Further information regarding notifications and outcomes can be found at: <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Notifications.aspx>

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

### Patient Records

An updated Frequently Asked Questions on Patient Records can be accessed from the Boards website at <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>

### Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) has issued its [\*Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice\*](#), which apply nationally to all registered Chinese medicine practitioners in the division of acupuncture. The guidelines complement the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) *Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare* (NHMRC Guidelines), which have been adopted by the National Board. This is the first Australia wide guidelines specifically relating to acupuncture practice.

All registered Chinese medicine practitioners in the division of acupuncture must comply with:

- the NHMRC Guidelines
- the National Board guidelines, and
- relevant state, territory and local government requirements that apply to their place of business.

These are now published on the board's website, along with an explanatory statement and Frequently Asked Questions (<http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>).

### Supervision Guidelines

The Committee has also completed draft Supervision Guidelines which will be released for preliminary consultation, including to key stakeholders, national boards and AHPRA operational staff for feedback within the next two months.

### Accreditation Matters

The Accreditation Committee for [Chinese Medicine](#) have published consultations on the draft accreditation standards and accreditation processes. Feedback is open until 6 September 2013. The Board intends to provide feedback to support the standards and processes.



### **Audit Update**

The Board noted an update regarding practitioner audit for all professions. Planning is well underway to commence auditing for this registration year. From December 2013 audits will commence and will be spread across a 4-5 month period.

### **Board membership and vacancy**

Applications for the position of community member on the Board closed Monday 19 August 2013.

### **Protected titles, endorsement and holding out under the National Law**

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia are in the process of finalising Frequently Asked Questions and a Position statement in regard to protected titles, endorsement and holding out under the National Law. Once finalised this information will be published on the website and accessible to practitioners and the public.

It is expected that this information will be available within the month.

### **Practitioner registration fees**

The Board has announced practitioner registration fees for 2013/14. AHPRA published a media release which provides information on four Boards that have reduced their fees, two that have frozen their fees and eight that have limited their fee increases to the national consumer price index. The new fees apply from 1 August 2013. The fee schedules are available on the website.

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia's media release can be found at:

<http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2013-07-29-media-release.aspx>

### **Newsletter**

The National Board June newsletter is available at: <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News.aspx>.

The next newsletter is expected to be published early October 2013.

### **NSW Health Professional Council Authority Newsletter**

The Legal News of the Health Professional Council Authority (HPCA) is produced each month and provides a summary of the relevant recent NSW Tribunal, Professional Standards Committee and Courts cases. It also includes important health practitioner cases from other States and Territories. The latest issue contains useful links to information from National Boards, AHPRA and the Ministry of Health.

Available at: <http://www.hpca.nsw.gov.au/Legal-Information/Legal-News/default.aspx>

### **Important Information for Practitioners**

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/)

For more detail or 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**  
**3 September 2013**