

Communiqué: Twelfth meeting Chinese Medicine Board of Australia - 24 July 2012

Participation Day: 1 July 2012

On 1 July 2012, approximately 4,000 Chinese medicine practitioners joined Australia's National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS), along with three other new professional groups – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, medical radiation practitioners, and occupational therapists. The transition went smoothly considering the size of the task and the massive workload behind the scenes which were completed within a tight timeline.

Board Member Resignation

Regretfully the Board has received a resignation from community member Mrs Alison Christou. Alison has been appointed for five years to the federal government's Refugee and Migration Review Tribunals which presents challenges in meeting the commitment to attend to Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (Board) business. The Board thanks Alison for her contribution and constructive approach to the Board's work over the last 12 months. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) will commence the process to make recommendation for the appointment of a community member to the Board.

Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines: Consultation

The Board advises that it is preparing to issue draft guidelines for consultation around September 2012.

Accreditation Committee Update

The Board advises that a selection panel has completed two full days of interviews and anticipates making recommendations to the August Board meeting. In addition, Terms of Reference are being prepared.

Patient Records

The Board advises that it:

- aims for the best record keeping possible and its main focus is to be on accuracy of patient records in the interest of public safety
- wishes to encourage English language record keeping but only if the writer is competent
- will allow non-English record keeping as outlined in its consultation guideline
- will require that identity-related information (name, contact details, gender, emergency contact and date of birth) be recorded in English
- will revise this position in three years.

An explanatory statement, the final guideline and some FAQ's are published on the website. Please go to www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2012-07-30-Guidelines-released.aspx

Chinese Medicine Council of NSW

Under the national scheme a person can make a notification about a registered practitioner or student by downloading a notification form from the AHPRA website, completing and mailing it to the AHPRA office in their state or territory.

In NSW, however, the complaints system is different. In NSW, notifications about the performance, conduct or health of practitioners and students are managed by the Chinese Medicine Council of NSW in conjunction with the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission. The Council is a statutory body that was established on 1 July 2012 under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)*. Notification (complaint) forms may be submitted online or downloaded from either the Council's website: www.chinesemedicinecouncil.nsw.gov.au or from the Commission's website at www.hccc.nsw.gov.au and posted to the Council at Locked Bag 20, HAYMARKET NSW 1238.

The Board congratulates the following persons who have been appointed to the Council which comprises six members:

- Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski (Practitioner and President)
- Ms Christine Berle (Practitioner and Deputy President)
- Mr Richard Li (Practitioner)
- Dr Danforn Lim (Practitioner)
- Mr Michael Eagle (Legal Practitioner)
- Ms Karen Thomas (Community Member)

Communication

The Board discussed examples of when it might wish to communicate directly with Chinese medicine practitioners and/or the community. Where this Communiqué is about transparency of Board meetings, there is also general information that the Board will want to disseminate to assist practitioners and the community to understand what is expected of registered practitioners.

Use of Professor Title

The Board has received inquiries about the use of the honorific title "Professor" on the Register. The Board has obtained legal advice that such use is not considered to fall within the definition of advertising. However, the Board reminds registered Chinese medicine practitioners to observe the Board's Advertising Guidelines for any promotional activities.

Professor Charlie Xue

Chair

8 August 2012