

## Communiqué

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15 June 2015

The 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 May 2015 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne, Victoria. This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting.

This communiqué is 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.

### **Revised English language skills registration standards will take effect from 1 July 2015**

Revised English language skills registration standards take effect from 1 July 2015 for all new registrants in Chinese medicine.

National Boards have published the contents of revised English language skills registration standards for all registrants except Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. Boards also published supporting materials to help practitioners understand the new requirements.

Whenever possible, National Boards seek to work together to develop common or similar standards across professions.

The revised standards are:

- [a common standard for 12 professions](#): Chinese medicine, chiropractic, dental, medical, medical radiation, occupational therapy, optometry, osteopathy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry and psychology
  - the standard for 10 Boards (no additional wording)
  - [a standard for dental](#), which is identical to the common standard with the addition of some very brief dental-specific words for applicants for limited registration
  - [a standard for medical](#), which is identical to the common standard with the addition of information about two medicine-specific English language tests
- [a profession-specific standard for nursing and midwifery](#), which shares many elements with the common standard.

The revised standards introduce additional pathways for applicants to demonstrate evidence of their English language skills. Diagrams of how these work are included below under 'additional resources'.

The revised standards were developed after a review of the existing standards, which included a public consultation. The consultation report provides a summary of responses, rationale for any changes and sets out the proposed way forward, including areas where further work is planned.

These revised standards will apply to all applicants for initial registration, regardless of whether they qualified in Australia or overseas (except for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners).

Additional resources are available about the standards and are published on the Board's website, in particular there are FAQ specifically for Chinese medicine at [FAQ: Additional information for Chinese medicine practitioners](#).

### **Revised criminal history registration standard will take effect from 1 July 2015**

A revised criminal history registration standard will also come into effect for all registrants from 1 July 2015.

National Boards published the contents of the revised shared criminal history registration standard for all registered health practitioners, which is common to all National Boards and takes effect from 1 July 2015.

Whenever possible, National Boards seek to work together to develop common or similar standards across professions.

The revised criminal history registration standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council and makes very minor amendments to the existing standard. The changes are expected to have minimal impact on practitioners as no changes have been made to the factors National Boards will take into account when considering an applicant's or registrant's criminal history.

When an individual first applies for registration, the National Board requires the applicant to declare their criminal history in all countries, including Australia. All registered health practitioners must inform their National Board if they are:

- charged with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, or
- convicted or found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment in Australia and/or overseas.

When practitioners renew their registration they must disclose any changes to their criminal history.

More information about how criminal history checks are conducted are available on the [criminal history checks](#) page on the AHPRA website, including which checks are required from countries other than Australia for [some applicants and registrants](#).

### **Upcoming vacancies on the Registration and Notifications Committee (RNC)**

There are two upcoming vacancies on the Registration and Notifications Committee (RNC). These will be advertised soon on the Board's website to start the recruitment process.

### **Review of registration standards for the 2012 professions in the National Scheme**

The current profession specific registration standards (continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance arrangements) approved for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners and occupational therapists of Australia are due for review.

The current versions of these standards were approved by Ministerial Council on 11 January 2012 and have been in effect since 1 July 2012. These standards specified that they must be reviewed at least every three years.

A cross-profession working group has started work on the review and one of its first steps is to conduct an update to a literature search which was done when the 2010 profession reviewed the same standards.

### **Health profession agreement 2015/16**

The Board and AHPRA have agreed on the health profession agreement for the next financial year (2015/16) which will be published on the website soon.

### **Chinese medicine overseas qualifications assessment framework**

From 1 July 2015, after the grandparenting period ends, the Board needs to have an arrangement for assessing the substantial equivalence of overseas trained practitioners' qualifications. The Board is working on this and will provide further details in due course.

### **Updating 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 will be using [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 National Board publishes a range of information about registration, including its expectations of practitioners, at [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au). For more details or help with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHRPA on 1300 419 495.

### **Professor Charlie Xue**

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia  
15 June 2015