

Communiqué

The 57th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 August 2016 in Melbourne.

This communiqué provides key 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 work of the Board.

Chinese Medicine Reference Group

The Board has decided to establish a Chinese Medicine Reference Group (the Reference Group) consisting of both individuals and representatives of organisations who can bring their collective input to the Board.

It is essential that the Board is aware of the views and needs of the wider community when it is fulfilling its public protection role. Recently the Board has held forums across the country and these engagements will continue. It also gathers feedback from other sources such as through consultations about new and revised standards and guidelines.

The purpose of the Reference Group will be to enhance communication about and understanding of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) from varying perspectives. This includes individual practitioners, consumers and key stakeholder groups representing the educational institutions and the peak practitioner and industry groups. The Board will publish a call for membership.

China trip: Australia-China Council co-sponsored activity 2017

The Board has been awarded an Australia-China Council (ACC) Grant. Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon Julie Bishop MP [announced the results](#) of the 2016–17 ACC grant round on 31 August 2016.

The Board has obtained a grant of \$20,000. The funding will be used to support a delegation of the Board to conduct its first trip to China (visiting Beijing and Hong Kong) to facilitate dialogue and strengthen foundational engagement with international authorities that regulate Chinese Medicine practice. The objective is to enhance the regulatory capacity of the Board and facilitate workforce mobility. The Board sees this as a valued opportunity for information gathering, relationship building and Board member development, in the interest of the Australian community.

Committee structure review

The Board conducted its annual review of its committees and decided to continue with its Registration and Notifications Committee (RNC) and Policy, Planning and Communications Committee (PPCC). The members are as follows:

Registration and Notifications Committee

1. Craig Zimitat, Committee Chair and National Board community member
2. Christine Berle, National Board health practitioner member
3. Liang Zhong Chen, National Board health practitioner member
4. Roderick Martin, National Board health practitioner member
5. Jacinta Ryan, Committee health practitioner member

Policy, Planning and Communications Committee

1. David Graham, Committee Chair and National Board community member
2. Di Wen Lai, National Board health practitioner member
3. Ian Dummett, National Board health practitioner member
4. Brian May, Committee health practitioner member

Health Profession Agreement 2016–20

Under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia and AHPRA work in partnership to implement the National Scheme, each with specific roles, powers and responsibilities set down in the National Law. Each year the Board and AHPRA publish a health profession agreement that details the services provided by AHPRA that enable the Board to carry out its functions under the National Law. The 2016–2020 agreement has been agreed and will be published soon.

Regulatory work plan and risk management

The Board's new regulatory plan for 2015–2020 was agreed in June 2016. The Board's regulatory plan is routinely included in the Health Profession Agreement as Schedule 2 which is published [here](#). The Board is currently working on a more detailed work plan to guide its work implementing the 2015–2020 regulatory plan.

Board fees set for 2016/17

The Board has decided that the national registration fee for Chinese medicine practitioners for 2016/17 will remain the same as in the previous year. The Board has frozen the registration fee at \$579. It will cover the registration period for most practitioners of 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017. The fee for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW is \$500.

A full fee schedule, including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, is published on the Board [website](#).

Responsible advertising

The Board would like to remind all practitioners that they must comply with the provisions of the National Law, on the advertising of regulated health services, relevant national, state and territory consumer protection legislation and, if applicable, legislation regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods.

All practitioners must be familiar with the *Code of Conduct and Guidelines for advertising regulated health services* (the guidelines) on the Board's [website](#). The guidelines equip any person who advertises a regulated health service, or any business that provides a regulated health service, with guidance on the obligations of advertisers under the National Law.

Advertising regulated health services

Section 133 of the National Law regulates the advertising of regulated health services (a service provided by, or usually provided by, a health practitioner as defined in the National Law). Section 133 provides that a person must not advertise regulated health services in a way that:

- a. is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to be misleading or deceptive; or
- b. offers a gift, discount or other inducement to attract a person to use the service or the business, unless the advertisement also states the terms and conditions of the offer; or
- c. uses testimonials or purported testimonials about the service or business; or
- d. creates an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment; or
- e. directly or indirectly encourages the indiscriminate or unnecessary use of regulated health services.

Further guidance around claims in advertising is currently being developed and will be made available in the Board's upcoming newsletter.

News from AHPRA

The Board works in partnership with AHPRA and the other thirteen National Boards to deliver the [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme](#) (the National Scheme).

While we publish [news](#) specific to our work in regulating Chinese medicine practitioners, AHPRA [publishes](#) updates on work from across the National Scheme. This includes communiqués from key meetings with government and other stakeholders.

We encourage you to review these from time to time. You are also able to subscribe to the AHPRA newsletter by [registering here](#).

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme 2016 Combined Meeting

The National Board meeting was held on 26 August to coincide with the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme 2016 Combined Meeting where entities within the Scheme got together to discuss the focus for the next 12 months.

National Boards and AHPRA host research summit

The 2016 Research Summit hosted by the 14 National Boards and AHPRA was attended by more than 220 delegates who gathered together to talk about the next frontier for developing our partnership's evidence-base to improve the way we regulate.

The theme of the summit was 'patient safety through risk-based regulation', and presenters discussed a range of topics. At the heart of the discussion was how to contribute to safer care for patients and health consumers. Also discussed was how data collection and evaluation can help find new and innovative ways to improve regulatory processes for health practitioners and the public.

The inaugural summit provided an opportunity for the exchange of expertise and ideas between regulatory staff, experts in safety and quality in healthcare, health practitioners and leading health and medical researchers.

Read more in the [media release](#) about the summit which was held on 25 August.

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 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 uses [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 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.

Professor Charlie C Xue

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

15 September 2016

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, as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation 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.*