

Media release from the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

26 March 2012

New legal requirements apply to Chinese medicine practitioners from 1 July

Get the facts on this important change

Chinese medicine practitioners across Australia are urged to go to Chinese Medicine Board of Australia's website (www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au) **now** to read and properly understand the new legal obligations that will apply to them from 1 July 2012.

The Board also urges practitioners outside of Victoria to submit their registration applications **as soon as possible** to allow sufficient time for processing before 1 July.

This includes Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers.

To be granted registration, practitioners must meet the registration standards set by the Board under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory. The standards were developed after extensive public consultation in 2011, and were approved by all Australian state and territory health ministers.

One of the registration standards, the *Grandparenting and General Registration Eligibility Registration Standard*, explains the provisions made by the Board to ensure that Chinese medicine practitioners who are legitimately practising the profession outside Victoria (the only currently regulated state) are not unjustly disadvantaged by the profession becoming part of the National Scheme.

Another standard set by the Board is the *English Language Skills Registration Standard*. Practitioners who do not meet this standard, *may* still be approved for General registration but with conditions. An example of a condition may be that when the practitioner and the patient do not share a common language, a suitable interpreter must be used.

Conditions are not punitive but are imposed when necessary to enable the practitioner to continue practising and also protect the public. Practitioners can apply at any time for a condition on their registration to be removed if there has been a material change in circumstances, for example, after successfully completing an English language test that meets the English language standard.

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While the grandparenting provisions end after 30 June 2015, practitioners who have General registration with a condition will be able to keep practising. If they want to they can also still prepare for an English language test beyond this date.

Chinese medicine practitioners are urged to go to www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au **now** to get the facts about national registration, and what they need to do to be registered.#