

## Communiqué

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The 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 29 August 2014 at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, during the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) Combined Meeting 2014. This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting.

This communiqué is published on the National Board website and an announcement to a broad range of stakeholders is also sent by email.

Please forward the communiqué to colleagues who may be interested in the work of the National Board.

### **NRAS 2014 combined meeting**

The National Board meeting was held to coincide with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme combined meeting.

The combined meeting encourages learning through sharing ideas, innovation and networking. The goal is to facilitate better understanding of the wider regulatory and reform environment and promote collaborative effort.

The combined meeting was attended by members of all of the National Boards, representatives of accreditation authorities, NSW Councils representatives, the Agency Management Committee, AHPRA staff and other interested parties such as representatives from departments of health.

### **Forum for practitioners and students of Chinese medicine – Melbourne**

The National Board is conducting a number of meetings/forums to engage directly with the profession. This has been identified as a strategic priority for 2014/15. The first forum was held in June 2014 in Sydney.

The Board has scheduled its second forum to be held in Melbourne, Victoria on the evening of Monday 22 September 2014.

Please check the website at [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2014-08-28-melbourne-forum.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2014-08-28-melbourne-forum.aspx) and register if you would like to attend.

A third forum will be held in Brisbane on Monday 24 November.

### **Consultation paper for the three-year review of NRAS**

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August, the consultation paper for the scheduled and independent three-year review of the National Scheme was published. The consultation paper is considering the National Scheme as a whole including the work of Boards, AHPRA, accrediting entities and the role of governments. The consultation paper can be accessed [here](#).

The review team expects to make its recommendations early in 2015, which will then be subject to final decisions by all health ministers.

The National Board will be actively participating in the consultation and review process, while continuing its existing work to improve its performance across all aspects of the work of AHPRA and the National Board.

### **Draft guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice**

The National Board would like to express its appreciation to those who have made submissions to the Board's recent public consultation on *Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice*.

The Board has received many submissions which are numerous and complex. A range of issues and suggestions were made in these submissions.

The National Board is determined to ensure that key issues are addressed adequately before the Guideline is finalised. This process will take some time. To assist the Board with this important task, the Board has decided to form a Technical Advisory Group (Group). The members of this group are:

- Prof. David BRIGGS, School of Science and Health, University of Western Sydney (and former Head of the Office of Complementary Medicines in the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration)
- Prof. Ron QUINN, Director, Eskitis Institute for Drug Discovery, Griffith University, Australia
- Prof. Eddie PANG, Botany, plant science, genetics and molecular biology, RMIT University
- Steve MARTY, Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia and Registrar of the Victorian Pharmacy Authority
- Dr. Brian MAY, PhD, Registered Chinese herbal medicine practitioner, Clinical Research Fellow, RMIT University (and former CMRBV member), and
- Robin MARCHMENT, Registered Chinese herbal medicine practitioner and acupuncturist.

This expert group will provide technical and expert advice on key issues to the Board's Policy, Planning and Communications Committee (PPC) – see [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/About/Chinese-Medicine-Board-Committees.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/About/Chinese-Medicine-Board-Committees.aspx)

Jointly the Group and the PPC will conduct detailed analysis, debate prospective solutions and formulate recommendations for the Board.

When this process is completed, the Board will publish its final decisions with explanatory notes.

### **Chinese Medicine Board of Australia sets registration renewal fee for 2014-2015**

The Board has announced the national registration fee for Chinese medicine practitioners for 2014/15.

The fee has been set at \$579, limiting the fee increase to 2.8%, which is just under the national consumer price index (CPI). It will apply from 9 September 2014 and cover the registration period for most practitioners of 1 December 2014 to 30 November 2015. Under the co-regulatory arrangement, the fee for practitioners whose principal place of practice in NSW will be \$521.

The National Boards, in the national scheme regulating health practitioners in Australia, have continued to see an increase in notifications (complaints) over the past year. As the number, complexity and cost of these cases can't be accurately forecast, the Boards will continue to keep fees under close monitoring to ensure careful and responsible financial management.

A fee schedule, including the fee arrangements for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW, is also published on the National Board's website – see [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Registration/Fees.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Registration/Fees.aspx) .

More detailed information about the Board's financial operations is outlined in the *Health Profession Agreement between the Board and AHPRA* for 2014/15, which has been published on the Board's [website](#). This agreement sets out the partnership between the Board and AHPRA, and the services AHPRA will provide to support the Board to regulate Chinese medicine practitioners.

As stipulated in the National Law the regulation of Chinese medicine is funded solely by registrant fees and there is no cross-subsidisation between professions that are regulated in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

### **Position statement on translating publications of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia**

The National Board recognises the diverse cultural background of practitioners in the Chinese medicine profession. From time to time, important documents may need to be translated into languages other than English to ensure timely and accurate understanding of information provided by the Board. However, professional translation service is costly. To guide the Board's consistent decision making, the Board will shortly publish a position statement at [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Position-statements.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Position-statements.aspx)

In short, the Board has agreed to the following principles for assessing whether to translate publications:

- whether the document relates to a significant public safety issue

- the primacy/relevance of the document to the issue
- the existence of notifications/breaches related to the issue
- cost-effectiveness of providing in-language publications, i.e. potential for achieving improved compliance and minimisation of future breaches

The need to translate materials will be assessed against these principles.

### **Updating contact details**

To check your contact details, go to the [Your Account](#) link on the AHPRA homepage, and enter your User ID, date of birth and password (please note that your User ID is not your registration number). If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or call: 1300 419 495.

### **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 AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Yours sincerely,

### **Professor Charlie Xue**

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia  
10 September 2014