

## Media release

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22 November 2012

### Time running out for Chinese medicine practitioners to renew registration by 30 November

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) today urged those Chinese medicine practitioners who are yet to renew their registration - due 30 November for most practitioners - to renew on time.

Board Chair Professor Charlie Xue said the number of professionals who have already renewed was pleasing.

To date, 64% of the 3,689 Chinese medicine practitioners due to renew their registration by 30 November 2012 have already renewed which is a fantastic result, Professor Xue said.

Chinese medicine practitioners due to renew their registration by 30 November 2012 number 1,462 in New South Wales, 1,081 in Victoria, 714 in Queensland, 158 in Western Australia, 150 in South Australia, 29 in Tasmania, 52 in ACT and 14 in the Northern Territory.

To ensure that everyone who wants to renew their registration does so, hard copy letters have been sent to Chinese medicine practitioners who have already received email reminders but are yet to renew, Professor Xue said.

Under the National Scheme, health professionals are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Board, with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible.

Professor Xue said once AHPRA received a practitioner's application for renewal of registration they would stop receiving renewal reminders. A new online facility to opt out of renewing registration also puts a stop to renewal reminders.

This new online facility will provide the Board and AHPRA with good data on the number of practitioners who have chosen to opt out, to distinguish them from individuals who intended to renew, but did not do so on time.

Professor Xue noted that there were significant consequences for Chinese medicine practitioners who do not renew on time in the National Scheme.

Under the National Law, practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise their profession in Australia until a new application is approved.

Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear - renew on time. The quickest and easiest way to do this is online, Professor Xue said.

Practitioners can check that their application has been received via the online receipt service at [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Renewal Received Confirmation](#). Individuals whose application to renew registration has been received can practise while their application is being processed.

**Failure to renew:**

Chinese medicine practitioners who forget to renew their registration 30 November 2012, or within the following one month late period, can apply to AHPRA for a fast-track application for registration. These practitioners should note that they are not able to practise in their profession until their fast-track registration application has been processed and approved. An additional fee applies for fast-track applications and this option is only available for four weeks after the late period closes.

*For more information*

- Visit <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au> for FAQs on renewal
- Chinese medicine practitioners can check their registration details and expiry date on the Register of Practitioners at [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200