

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

July 2017 meeting

The 66th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 25 July 2017 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 Board's work.

Upcoming forums: invitation for Chinese medicine practitioners, students and stakeholders

The Board is inviting practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine to attend information forums being held around Australia.

State	Dates	Time
Sydney	Monday 21 August Sydney Karstens Level 1, 111 Harrington Street, Sydney	6 – 7.30 pm
Brisbane	Monday 25 September Brisbane Karstens Level 24, 215 Adelaide Street, Brisbane	
Adelaide	Monday 11 December Adelaide Karstens 19 Young Street, Adelaide	

There will be a Board presentation and time for questions and discussion, then networking and light refreshments.

Please put these dates in your diary for planning and when you receive an invitation or see the details on the website for your location, RSVP about your attendance.

Meeting your legal and professional advertising obligations

Registered Chinese medicine practitioners who advertise health services need to **check, correct** and **comply** with their professional and legal advertising obligations.

Under the National Law, a regulated health service or a business providing a regulated health service must not advertise in a way that:

- is false, misleading or deceptive
- uses gifts, discounts or inducements without explaining the terms and conditions of the offer

- uses a testimonial or a purported testimonial
- creates an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment, and/or
- directly or indirectly encourages the indiscriminate or unnecessary use of regulated health services.

There are also restrictions on advertising in a way that identifies a health practitioner as a specialist when they do not hold registration as a specialist or as an endorsed practitioner in a health profession.

The National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) have published a strategy for the National Scheme aimed at keeping health service consumers safe from misleading advertising.

The [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy](#) explains how National Boards and AHPRA will manage advertising complaints and compliance, including the regulatory powers available to deal with breaches of the National Law.

The strategy is designed to keep improving how regulated health services are advertised so healthcare consumers can be better informed.

When preparing advertising, registered Chinese medicine practitioners should always put the consumer first and ensure that their advertising is not [false, misleading or deceptive](#) in any way.

This strategy builds on the previous education and enforcement work from National Boards and AHPRA.

More information is available on the [Advertising resources](#) section of the AHPRA website and more information will be published in coming months.

Board publishes position statement on advertising

The Board has published a position statement on advertising due to concern about an increase in Chinese medicine advertising complaints.

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia's (the Board) *Position statement on Chinese medicine practitioners making therapeutic claims in advertising* has been developed to provide clear advice to both practitioners and the public.

It can be read in full in the [Position statements](#) section of the Board's website.

Chinese Medicine Reference Group

The next meeting of the Chinese Medicine Reference Group is scheduled for 23 August 2017 in Sydney. You may wish to communicate with your representatives from the association or the individual practitioner members. For a list of members see the [Chinese Medicine Reference Group](#) page on the Board website.

New registration data released

The Board has released its quarterly registration data to end of March 2017. Read the latest report and other statistics on its [website](#).

COAG Health Council meeting communique: progressing amendments to the National Law

The federal and state and territory health ministers met in Brisbane on 4 August 2017 at the [COAG Health Council](#) to discuss a range of national health issues. The meeting was chaired by the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon. Jill Hennessy. AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher attended the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) meeting which brings together all health ministers throughout Australia to provide oversight for the work of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. AHPRA and the National Boards provide a regular update to the Ministerial Council on our work.

The meeting included an agreement by health ministers to proceed with amendments to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) to strengthen penalties for offences committed by people who hold themselves out to be a registered health practitioner, including those who use reserved professional titles or carry out restricted practices when not registered. Ministers also agreed to proceed with an amendment to introduce a custodial sentence with a maximum term of up to three years for these offences. These important reforms will be fast tracked to strengthen public protection under the National

Law. Preparation will now begin on a draft amendment bill, with a view to being introduced to the Queensland Parliament in 2018.

Ministers also discussed mandatory reporting provisions for treating health practitioners, agreeing that protecting the public from harm is of paramount importance as is supporting practitioners to seek help and treatment for their health concerns, including for their mental health and well-being. They agreed doctors should be able to confidentially seek treatment for health issues while preserving the requirement for patient safety. It was agreed that the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council will recommend a nationally consistent approach to mandatory reporting following a consultation process with consumer and practitioner groups. A proposal on mandatory reporting is expected to be considered at the November 2017 meeting of the COAG Health Council.

The Council produces a [communiqué](#) from its meeting which can be accessed on AHPRA's website.

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 social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



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

25 July 2017

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.*

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).