

## Communiqué

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24 February 2015

The 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 February 2015 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne, Victoria. This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting.

This communiqué is 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.

### Grandparenting

The Board notes that grandparenting provisions in the National Law<sup>1</sup> for Chinese medicine practitioners will end on 30 June 2015. Anyone who seeks to obtain registration as a Chinese medicine practitioner under these provisions should make an application before 1 July 2015.

Please refer to the Board's [Chinese medicine grandparenting and general registration eligibility registration standard](#) and [media release](#) for more information.

### Chinese medicine February newsletter

The [February 2015 edition of the Board's newsletter](#) was forwarded electronically to all Chinese medicine practitioners. If you did not receive your newsletter, please ensure that AHPRA holds your current and correct email address. It is easy to update your contact details online and information on how to do so is at the end of this communiqué.

### New approach to international criminal history checks

A new procedure for checking international criminal history to provide greater public protection took effect from 4 February 2015.

This new approach requires [certain applicants and practitioners](#) to apply for an international criminal history check from an AHPRA approved supplier and was first announced in November 2014. The supplier will provide the international criminal history check report to the applicant and directly to AHPRA.

The new process for checking international criminal history aims to strike a balance between public safety and regulatory burden for practitioners. More information is in the media [release](#) on the Board's website.

### National drug screening protocol strengthened

Mandatory hair testing for all registered health practitioners with substance-related impairment will now be routine in a move by AHPRA and the National Boards to strengthen the national drug screening protocol.

Under the protocol, all health practitioners who have restrictions on their registration linked to past substance abuse will have routine hair testing in addition to urine testing. Routine hair testing helps provide comprehensive information about the use – over time – of a wide range of drugs (not just based on the practitioner's drug taking history).

National Boards will continue to make decisions about individual practitioners with impairment case by case, based on testing standards set out in the protocol.

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)

The drug screening protocol is part of a wider, national strategy to effectively manage compliance and monitoring across the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The strategy has been progressively implemented from July 2014. More information is in the [media release](#) on the Board's website.

### **Security tip – keep your web browser updated**

AHPRA and the National Boards are making changes to our websites to ensure your information is kept safe.

From early April 2015, anyone using Internet Explorer version 6 (or an older version) to view the Board's website is likely to experience difficulty accessing web pages and online services.

To avoid an interruption to service, we recommend you [upgrade to the newest version of Internet Explorer immediately](#). It is available for free from Microsoft.

If you are using a new version of Internet Explorer and are still having difficulty accessing our website please contact us to report your experience.

Call **1300 419 495** Monday to Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

### **Updating 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 cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or phone 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.

### **Professor Charlie Xue**

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia  
2 April 2015