

## Communiqué

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The 49<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 November 2015 in Perth. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank the support provided by the University of Western Australia for the provision of the facilities for both the public forum and the Board meeting on 23 and 24 November 2015.

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 work of the Board.

### Release of Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice

The Board published [guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice](#) and supporting materials on 16 November 2015.

### Registration renewal now in late period

Chinese medicine practitioners who were due to renew registration by 30 November 2015 and did not do so are now in the late period. If you did not renew your registration on time, you can still renew until **31 December 2015**, but a late payment fee will apply.

The quickest and easiest way to renew your registration is [online](#). You can keep practising during the late period but must apply for renewal of registration by 31 December 2015.

Under the National Law<sup>1</sup>, if you haven't renewed by the end of the one month late period (31 December 2015) your registration will lapse. Your name will be removed from the [national register of practitioners](#) and you must cease to practice Chinese medicine immediately.

If you wish to keep practising you must make a new application for registration. Fast track application forms will be available on the Board website under *Forms* during January 2016. If submitting a fast-track application in January, you cannot practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

### Registration standards review

The Board received a project update regarding its review of the *Registration Standards for Continuing Professional Development, Recency of Practice and Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements*. The preparatory phase of the review has been completed and draft standards are being developed. The Board anticipates preliminary consultation starting in early 2016.

### Adelaide forum for practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) for Chinese medicine practitioner registration has been in operation for three and a half years. The Board is conducting a number of meetings to engage more directly with the profession. This has been identified as a strategic priority for the Board. Over the last 12 months, the Board has conducted engagement meetings in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.

The Board would like to invite you to its next forum in Adelaide, to discuss regulation and encourage the integration of registration standards, codes and guidelines into your daily practice.

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

Please register your attendance to this free event as places are limited to 65.

**Date:** Monday 22 February 2016

**Time:** 5.30pm till 7.00pm (there will be a Board presentation and time for questions and discussion)

**Venue:** Adina Apartment Hotel Adelaide Treasury

Keep an eye on the website for further details.

### 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.

### 2014/15 National Scheme annual report and Chinese Medical Board profession profile

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2014/15 annual report on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The annual report is published at [www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015). It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

The Board will also publish a report in the new year of its work in regulating the Chinese medicine profession in the National Scheme during 2014/15. The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for Chinese medicine in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the 2014/15 annual report of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme and will be available soon on the [Board website](#).

### Different fee for registration in NSW

The Board has received a number of 'complaints' from practitioners in other states about the lower fee in New South Wales (NSW).

NSW is a 'co-regulatory jurisdiction'. This means NSW manages the complaints about NSW-based Chinese medicine practitioners through the Chinese Medicine Council of NSW (the Council). The Council effectively performs the same functions as the Board's Registration and Notifications Committee, in relation to NSW complaints only.

The NSW Government partially funds this co-regulatory function and for Chinese medicine, a subsidisation is passed onto registered Chinese medicine practitioners with a NSW principal place of practice. This is balanced, however, against the cost of NSW managing complaints within any of the professions. In three examples (psychology, podiatry and osteopathy) the fee in NSW is actually higher than the national fee for practitioners outside NSW.

This arrangement was a decision of the NSW parliament for all regulated health care professions including Chinese medicine.

### National drug screening protocol

From November 2015, all Chinese medicine practitioners who have restrictions placed on their registration by the Board as a result of past substance misuse will have routine quarterly hair testing, in addition to random urine testing.

The introduction of routine hair testing is based on expert advice about modern screening methods. 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).

The drug screening protocol is part of a wider, national strategy to effectively manage compliance and monitoring across the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. More information is in the statement published on the [Board's website](#).

### **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 C Xue**

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia  
30 November 2015