

## Communiqué

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12 June 2015

The 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on **21 April 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.

### Accreditation Committee – membership

The terms for the current Accreditation Committee members were due to expire on 30 June 2015. However, as it had already been agreed to defer the review of the accreditation arrangements to 'by 30 June 2016' instead of 'by 30 June 2015', the Board decided in February 2015 to extend the member's terms of appointment to allow for the scheduled review of the arrangements. More recently due to a resignation of one member, the Board decided to seek expressions of interest from the existing accreditation assessors for a short term appointment (to end June 2016) to the Accreditation Committee. An expression of interest campaign started in March 2015 closed on 17 April 2015 and the Board has appointed Mrs Jian Jiang to the committee to replace Dr Sherry Beer who resigned earlier due to personal circumstances.

### Health ministers to consider independent review of the National Scheme

Federal and state and territory health ministers have been briefed on the final report of the review into the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) conducted in 2014.

Ministers met in Sydney on 17 April 2015 at the COAG Health Council to discuss a range of national health issues, including the final report on the independent review by the former director general of Health in Western Australia, Kim Snowball.

In 2014, the review involved an extensive consultation process that included more than 230 written submissions and more than 1000 individuals participating in consultation forums in all capital cities.

The review aimed to identify what was working well in the National Scheme and opportunities to improve and strengthen AHPRA and the National Boards' work to protect the public and facilitate access to health services.

Ministers requested time to consider the review's recommendations and agreed to consider each of the recommendations at their meeting in August 2015.

The [COAG Health Council communiqué](#) is available on the COAG Health Council website.

### Revised English language skills and criminal history registration standards in effect soon

AHPRA and the Board have published the contents of two revised registration standards – the [English language skills registration standard](#) and [criminal history registration standard](#) – and supporting materials to help practitioners understand the new requirements before they come into effect.

Both these standards were developed after a review of the current standards and public consultation. They are approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

The Board's website will be updated with the revised registration standards in coming weeks. Both standards come into effect from 1 July 2015.

## Royal Commission

The Board and AHPRA have been following the Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sex abuse and its implications for the regulation of health practitioners. The issues raised in the Royal Commission are serious and disturbing.

The Board and AHPRA are committed to learning from the evidence before the Royal Commission and its findings and taking action to make sure our regulatory system is responsive to anyone who has been sexually abused by a registered health practitioner, who comes forward.

If you have a concern about a health practitioner call:

- AHPRA on 1300 419 495
- NSW – 1800 043 159
- Qld – 133 646 (133 OHO).

## Improving monitoring of conditions on practitioner registration

AHPRA has welcomed calls for stringent monitoring and swift detection of breaches in compliance by registered health practitioners with restrictions on their registration.

On 24 March 2015, the Queensland Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) published a report recommending a range of initiatives to strengthen monitoring and compliance in Queensland and the National Scheme.

The report's recommendations affirm the sweeping changes AHPRA has already initiated to strengthen its compliance and monitoring program.

AHPRA's detailed response to the OHO and the recommendations in the report is published in the [Corporate publications](#) section of AHPRA's website.

Since July 2014, health complaints management in Queensland for registered health practitioners has involved a partnership between National Boards, AHPRA and the OHO.

Improvements to compliance monitoring add to the overhaul of complaints management in Queensland that started in 2012. Recent initiatives include preparation for stricter drug and alcohol screening announced in February 2015, the appointment of a national compliance manager and stronger national coordination of the compliance function.

For more information, please read the [media release](#) on AHPRA's website.

## 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 don't remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or phone 1300 419 495 for assistance.

## 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  
12 June 2015