

Communiqué

Meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia September 2011

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board, CMBA) met for the third time on 16 September 2011.

Under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, registration and accreditation will become mandatory for Chinese medicine practitioners from 1 July 2012.

On 5 September 2011, the Board released five draft mandatory registration standards (as stipulated in the Health Practitioners Regulation National Law Act 2009) for stakeholder consultation over a five-week period (closing date: 10 October 2011). The proposed registration standards are:

- professional indemnity insurance
- matters about the criminal history of applicants for registration
- requirements for continuing professional development
- requirements for English language skills, and
- requirements in relation to recency of practice.

The Board is also consulting on a draft standard for Chinese medicine Grand-parenting provisions for transitional arrangements for qualifications. This standard is particularly important to all existing practitioners except those currently registered by the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria.

All of the draft standards can be accessed on the Board's website from 5 September 2011 at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/chinese-medicine/News/Consultations.aspx> along with details on how to make a submission to the Board.

Making a submission

The Board urges all interested individuals and organisations to make submissions on the proposed standards focusing on the specific questions included in the consultation paper. All submissions should be sent to the Board via email to chinesemedicineconsultation@ahpra.gov.au marked "Registration Standards". The closing date for submissions is 5pm Monday, 10 October 2011. Please note no late submissions can be accepted because the Board has to meet the deadline for submitting the standards to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval.

Please note that the Board will publish all submissions, unless marked as confidential, on the interim website to encourage wide consideration and discussion and inform the community and stakeholders.

Communication Strategy

The Board has accepted a number of invitations to address meetings of members of the Chinese medicine profession and industry.

The Board will develop a set of "Frequently Asked Questions" to clarify and provide more detail on aspects of the standards and to provide details on the actual administration of the registration application processes.

The Project Team which is currently supporting the new Boards will make suitable arrangements for the organising/hosting of state and territory forums. This will most likely be around February 2012 when we expect to have finalised standards to discuss.

Board Committees

The Board has established the following committees which now have Terms of Reference and have commenced their work:

- Communication
- Finance
- Registration Committee
- Policies, Standards and Guidelines Committee

It has also decided to establish a Scheduled Herbs Committee in the near future.

With regard to an Accreditation Committee the Board will soon begin a consultation on the proposed composition of this Committee.

Other Policies and Guidelines

The Board plans to develop and consult on further guidelines for the profession on key topics such as patient record keeping, Chinese herbal medicine practice and infection control.

Acupuncture Accreditation Project

The Board noted the existence of an Acupuncture Accreditation Standard Project, being overseen by several of the existing national boards, and conducted on behalf of AHPRA by the Australian Physiotherapy Council. The CMBA requested to be involved and has now been invited to fulfil an advisory role as an ex-officio member of the Project Management Committee.

Finance

The Board has commenced budget planning and considered a number of other administrative and financial matters. This budget planning process will determine the application and registration fees.

Professor Charlie Xue
Chair
28 September 2011