

Media release

5 October 2012

Chinese medicine practitioners urged to renew online and on time

Chinese medicine practitioners across Australia are reminded that their registration is due for renewal by 30 November.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is sending a series of emails to Chinese medicine practitioners, for whom an email address is known, reminding them to renew their registration with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board).

Board Chair Professor Charlie Xue said 'Chinese medicine practitioners joined the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July this year – in most states and territories, this is the first time the profession has been regulated.'

'In the National Scheme, health professionals including Chinese medicine practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time. The job of the Board – with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – is to make this as simple and straightforward as possible,' he said.

When AHPRA receives a registration renewal application from a practitioner, their name is removed from the list of practitioners who are sent further reminders. There is also an online facility to 'opt out' of renewing registration. The 'opt out' service puts a stop to reminders.

Professor Xue reminded the profession that they risked being not able to work if they did not renew on time in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

Under the National Law, Chinese medicine practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. At this time, their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise in the profession in Australia until a new registration application is received and approved.

'Neither the Board nor AHPRA have any discretion about this so our advice is clear – renew on time. The quickest and easiest way to do this is online', Professor Xue said.

For more information

- Visit <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au> for FAQs on renewal
- Chinese medicine practitioners can check their registration details and expiry date on the Register of Practitioners at www.ahpra.gov.au.
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200