

Communiqué

Meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia August 2011

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) met for the second time on 30 August 2011. At this meeting, the Board considered a number of key issues relating to the registration of Chinese Medicine practitioners with a focus on grandparenting registration for practitioners outside Victoria.

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

Stakeholder consultation on draft registration standards

The Board has established its designated website at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/chinese-medicine.aspx>. All interested parties are encouraged to visit the website regularly to keep informed with the implementation progress of the registration and accreditation and participate in consultation on standards, policies, codes and guidelines. Your input will help shape how national regulation works for the profession 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.

Specific to Chinese Medicine, the Board is also consulting on a draft standard for Chinese medicine Grandparenting 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.

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 will be accepted because the Board has to meet the deadline for submitting the standards to the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for approval.

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.

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 acknowledged that an effective communication strategy incorporating practitioners, governments, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and other key stakeholders will be crucial to the introduction of the new national Chinese medicine practitioner registration by 1 July 2012. The Board agreed that further consideration of this issue will be a key priority at its September meeting.

Board Committees

The Board has decided it will establish the following committees:

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

Terms of Reference have been agreed for the communication committee and will be developed for the other committees in due course.

Finance

The Board 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

5 September 2011