

Media release

16 January 2012

National regulation begins July 2012 for Chinese medicine practitioners

Registration standards practitioners must meet released today

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) today released the mandatory registration standards that practitioners must meet to register in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, which comes into effect for Chinese medicine practitioners from 1 July 2012.

The Board reminds practitioners that:

- national regulation begins 1 July 2012 for this profession
- by this date, practitioners must be registered by the National Board to continue their practice
- the mandatory registration standards and the grand-parenting standard that practitioners must meet in order to register have now been approved by health ministers for implementation
- to be registered before 30 June 2012, practitioners are advised to submit their complete application by 30 March 2011; and
- practitioners registered in Victoria do not need to submit an application as they will transfer into the National Scheme with their current registration.

The Board urges Chinese medicine practitioners across Australia to familiarise themselves with the requirements of national regulation which comes into effect for this profession on 1 July 2012.

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Chair Professor Charlie Xue said mandatory national registration standards that practitioners must meet, no matter where they work in Australia, have now been set and were approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 13 January 2012.

These standards set out requirements in continuing professional development, criminal history, English language skills, professional indemnity insurance and recency of practice. In addition, the Board has developed a grand-parenting registration standard for applications before end of June 2015.

"I urge all Chinese medicine practitioners across Australia to visit the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia website to read the mandatory national registration standards in preparation for joining the National Scheme in July this year," Professor Xue said.

"The national standards have been set following extensive consultation with practitioners and other stakeholders. All Chinese medicine practitioners must now take the steps necessary to meet the new national standards to be registered to practise on 1 July 2012," he said.

While the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) takes effect from 1 July 2012 for this profession and practitioners must ensure that they are registered by this date in order to practise, the Board strongly recommends that practitioners submit their completed registration application

by 30 March 2012. This is to allow enough processing time before 1 July. Early applications will reduce the chance of disruption to their practice.

“The National Board is anticipating a large number of applications from states and territories where registration is not yet required,” Professor Xue said.

Chinese medicine practitioners who are registered with the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria on 30 June 2012 will automatically transfer into the National Scheme on 1 July 2012.

These practitioners will be advised by letter about how their current registration translates into registration under the National Scheme.

Chinese medicine is one of four health professions that will join the National Scheme on 1 July 2012 under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory. Chinese medicine, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, medical radiation practice and occupational therapy will join the 10 professions already in the scheme.

Under the National Scheme, National Boards set the policies and standards to regulate the professions and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) supports the National Boards in their role to protect the public, providing key services which include registering practitioners and investigating complaints or notifications.

The National Board’s website at www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au is updated regularly and has a host of information to make transition to the National Scheme as easy and as smooth as possible.

“AHPRA staff members are also able to help practitioners move towards national registration and can be contacted by phoning 1300 419 495 or by making an online inquiry,” Professor Xue said.

Important dates

16 January 2012	Mandatory registration and grand-parenting standards for the four new professions released – these are the standards practitioners must meet to register and be able to practise next year
February 2012	Registration applications available for downloading from Board websites
30 March 2012	Practitioners urged to have submitted their completed registration application by this date, to allow for processing time
1 July 2012	New professions join National Scheme – all practitioners must be registered with their National Board to practise
30 November 2012 onwards	Registered health practitioner annual renewal date

For more information:

- Visit www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au for a FAQ on transfer to the National Scheme
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200