

Communiqué: Seventh meeting Chinese Medicine Board of Australia - 20 February 2012


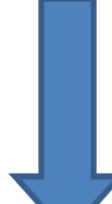
Update on registration standards

The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council approved the Registration Standards which are available on the Board's website at <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>

Hopefully many practitioners have attended the information sessions recently conducted to explain these in more detail and provide practical guidance to assist practitioners with applying for registration. The Board is well aware of particular concerns regarding the English language and the grandparenting standards.

English Language Standard

In response to queries the Board has developed FAQ's to redress wide misunderstanding about the standard and translated these into Chinese – see <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx>. Put simply, the situation is that the standard is IELTS 7.0 (there are other tests which are acceptable too) as per most of the other professions, but the Ministers approved a lower level of 6.0 for persons who apply during the “grandparenting period, which ends on 30 June 2015. This is simply depicted as follows:

Grandparenting	01-July-2012  30-June-2015	IELTS 6.0 OR 5 years education in English OR Conditions as needed or desirable to ensure effective communication
	After	01-July-2015  Ongoing

Instead of a test result, it is possible to meet the standard by instead demonstrating that you have completed 5 years of secondary and/or tertiary education conducted in English, in one of the approved English-speaking countries.

The main difference between this and the system which operated in Victoria many years ago, is that under the National Law, the requirement for appropriate arrangements must be managed by conditions on registration. It is the mechanism which is different, not the arrangements. I am confident that you will agree that effective communication between practitioners and their patients is very important. It also applies to all practitioners and their patients regardless of their particular language. The National Law, however, requires that all the Board have an English Language Standard. Chinese medicine cannot be an exception to this.

The proposed grandparenting arrangement, however, takes proper account of the uniqueness of Chinese medicine and provides a way to register practitioners who cannot meet the standard, so that they can continue to practise Chinese medicine.

Registration Fees

The Board has set the general registration fees for 2012-2013 and these are published on the Board's website at <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Registration/Fees.aspx>

Update on codes and guidelines

Feedback from the Board's consultation on a **code of conduct** and several further guidelines **advertising, mandatory notifications** and **patient records** was considered by the Board and final documents will be developed and published soon. Keep an eye on the website for these important documents. All new matters are announced on the news page and published on the appropriate webpage.

New Consultation Soon

The Board will soon be consulting with you about providing further and more detailed guidance on complying with the Standard on Continuing Professional Development. Please look out for this consultation draft and give us your views.

Communication

The Board is keenly aware of the mounting interest as the time moves towards 1 July. A comprehensive communication plan has been developed and is being implemented across the country. FAQs have been published on the National Board website and information fora are being held across Australia to inform the large number of unregistered practitioners there.

The Board recently conducted an extensive "roadshow" of information sessions around Australia and continues to attend when it can, other gatherings of stakeholders and will endeavour to take up opportunities to explain the new requirements and answer questions.

The Board also encourages all unregistered Chinese medicine practitioners to submit their applications for registration by 30 March 2012, if practicable. Although this is not a deadline (you can apply under the Grandparenting arrangement any time till 30 June 2015) this will assist the Board and AHPRA to manage and process applications for 1 July 2012.

Victorian Registered Practitioners

The Board strongly encourages all Victorian registrants whose renewal of registration falls due in June 2012, to renew with their current board well before the end of June to facilitate their safe transition to the national scheme.

Information sessions just for Victorians will be held in conjunction with local branches of professional associations as follows:

Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd

Venue: Meeting Room One, Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill, Victoria

Date: Sunday 22 April 2012. Seminar time: 1.45 p.m. for start of 2.00 p.m.

Speakers: Debra Gillick, Executive Officer, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia: 2 - 3.30 pm
Judy James, Chief Executive Officer, AACMA : 3.45 - 5.15 p.m.

Fees: Non - members: \$55.00; AACMA members free

Payment of fees: AACMA National Office - Tel: 07-33242599 Fax: 07-3394-2399

Email: statecommittee@acupuncture.org.au. Contact: Victor Lam: 0412- 491597

Federation of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Societies of Australia Ltd

Venue: Deakin University, Burwood Campus, Building B, Level 3, Lecture Theatre 4, 221
Burwood Highway, Burwood (Melway Ref: 61 B)

Date: Sunday 29 April 2012. Seminar time: 1.30 to 5.30 pm

Speakers: Debra Gillick, Executive Officer, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia: 1:30 to
3:30 pm (*with Chinese interpreter*)

3:30 to 5:30pm FCMA-Vic seminar, professional issues (*with English interpreter*)

Fees: Non - members: \$50.00; FCMA members free

Course Accreditation

One of the objectives of the National Law is to facilitate the provision of high quality education and training of health practitioners. The accreditation function is the primary way of achieving this. The National Law defines the respective roles of the Board and its appointed accreditation authority. The Board will shortly be calling for Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified and experienced persons to be either on the Accreditation Committee and/or list of suitable persons to assist.

General matters

The Board's website has received an increase in traffic over the past three months indicating that there is a high demand for accurate information. Further information on the work of the Board can be found at <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/>

Professor Charlie Xue

Chair

16 March 2012