

Communiqué: Eighth meeting Chinese Medicine Board of Australia - 30 March 2012

Progress of Registration Applications

The Board is pleased to have received around 2,000 applications by end of March. The Registration Committee is meeting on a weekly basis for a full day to process applications and to discuss and document the procedures. In light of the enormous variation between individual circumstances, the Committee is initially focussed on establishing consistent and fair criteria to apply decision-making.

The Board continues to refine the registration applications assessment process and will publish new FAQ's from time to time. See <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/FAQ.aspx>

List of Courses Adequate for Grandparenting Purposes

The Board agreed on a process for considering specific courses and is progressively adding to the lists of courses considered adequate for grandparenting purposes. See <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx> - look under "Programs of Study - Qualifications for general registration, considered adequate programs of study, under the grandparenting provisions of the National Law" for regular updates.

Chinese Qualifications

The Board has agreed to send the first batch of Chinese qualifications to the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing. The Accreditation Centre of Chinese Medicine Practitioners will be conducting the checks and reporting back to the Board.

The Board determined that applicants who already have a 'Vetassess' "qualifications verification"¹ report on a Chinese qualification will not need to have their qualifications sent to China.

Registration Fees

Based on the AHPRA budget framework, 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>

Call for Expressions of Interest Accreditation Committee

The Board is now calling for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from suitably qualified and experienced persons to be either on the Accreditation Committee and/or list of suitable persons to assist. See <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/Consultations.aspx> EOI's close 30 April 2012 and the Board is pleased to have received EOI's within days of posting this invitation to its website.

New Consultation

The Board is seeking comments on the draft guidelines on complying with the Standard on Continuing Professional Development. Please review the consultation document, available at <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/Consultations.aspx>, and give us your views.

¹ Different to equivalence assessment

Medical Board of Australia Consultation

The Board intends to make a submission to a current consultation on a Registration Standard to be applied for the purpose of endorsing medical practitioners to practise acupuncture. See <http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx>

Impending Guidelines

The Board agreed to work on the development of guidelines on infection prevention and control.

Communication

The Board thanks those who provided useful feed-back following its recent “Roadshow” of information sessions. Suggestions and constructive criticism are always welcome. The Board remains concerned about inaccuracies in some of the Chinese language press as well as occasional harassment and/or intimidation of individual Board members, which reflects a lack of understanding of government policy-making processes as well as reflects poorly on character and may have implications for a person’s suitability for registration.

In addition to national advertising on behalf of the four National Boards joining the National Scheme on 1 July, the Chinese Medicine Board is also undertaking an extensive in-language advertising and publicity campaign in Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese publications. The Board will now focus on getting the message about registration out to persons who may be practising Chinese medicine who are outside the professional information streams.

Victorian Registered Practitioners

The transition arrangements for Victorian registrants are:

- The Victorian Board will be sending the usual “Renewal of Registration” forms soon.
- As this is a time of transition, registrants should submit their renewal application as early as possible and by 22 June.
- Applications received after 1 July 2012 will be processed by AHPRA and delays may occur.

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. The Board encourages people to check for further information at <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/>

Professor Vivian Lin

Deputy Chair

13 April 2012