

Media release

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Board issues guidance on when to be registered

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) has now issued guidance to practitioners about when it is necessary to be registered.

The consultation process conducted by other Boards drew out significant discussion and wide variation about the issues generated by the current definition. There was no consensus, however, about the need for a change in the definition and no change proposed that did not also have unintended or unacceptable consequences.

Any change to the definition of practice would also have required a change to each of the registration standards that currently reference the definition, which would in turn require the approval of all Australia's health ministers.

The Board guidance advises the profession about when practitioners require registration and when it would be acceptable to the Board for a practitioner to not be registered. The guidance will remain in place pending a wider, scheduled review of all the registration standards in 2013.

We certainly hope that this guidance will, in a simple and straightforward way, effectively address the concerns raised about interpreting and applying the definition of practice.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) works in partnership with 14 National Boards to implement the national regulatory scheme for health professionals. The purpose of health practitioner regulation is to protect the public by ensuring that only health practitioners who have the skills, qualifications and knowledge to provide safe care are registered.

For more information

- Visit the Board's website, at www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/
- Lodge an online enquiry form under *Contact us* 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