

Communiqué: Eleventh meeting Chinese Medicine Board of Australia - 22 June 2012

Registration numbers

At its June meeting the Board received an update on application figures to date, and agreed to communicate the 1 July 2012 figures with its next Communiqué.

Chinese medicine practitioners join Australia's national registration and accreditation scheme on 1 July 2012, along with three other new professions – medical radiation technology, occupational therapy, and Aboriginal health workers. This important date was imminent when the Board met.

REGISTRATION NUMBERS AS OF 1 JULY

Total on Register	3,661
Transitioned	1,242
New	2,419
Limited	500
New applications received	2,949
Decided	2,419
In assessment	304

Limited Registration

The Board decided that it was in the public interest that some practitioners should be able to continue to practise to minimise disruption to the public. Under the National Law, the Board is able to grant limited registration if it considers it to be in the public interest. The Board will continue to assess these practitioners' qualifications and will notify them as soon as it has reached a decision about their qualifications and general registration application.

When practitioners are granted limited registration on 1 July, this is to allow their continued practise while their general registration applications continue to be assessed.

This has been necessary because of the large volume of applications received by AHPRA in a short period of time. Some practitioners have qualifications that are not on the current list of programs of study that have been approved by the Board. This means that AHPRA needs to do a bit more work to get information about these qualifications. In most cases further information has been requested from the applicant and AHPRA is waiting for a response.

The decision to grant limited registration does not in any way reflect on the competence of those practitioners.

English Language Tests

The Board decided that if an applicant for registration is an accredited interpreter with the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) this is an equivalent test and the applicant meets the English Language Standard.

Non-practising registration

The Board is aware that a number of non-practising Chinese medicine practitioners want to apply under the grandparenting arrangements to have their qualifications assessed. The law does not provide a direct pathway to non-practising registration for first time registration. The Board has had discussions with AHPRA to develop a sensible way to manage this.

The Board agreed on an appropriate way to deal with this situation and in consultation with AHPRA will settle the details of how this can be done.

As soon as this is finalised the Board will advise everyone. In the interim these persons can safely delay applying for registration as long as they submit their applications by 30 June 2015 if they wish to be assessed under the grandparenting provisions of the National Law.

Professor Vivian Lin

Deputy Chair

18 July 2012