

Communiqué: Thirteenth meeting Chinese Medicine Board of Australia - 21 August 2012

Accreditation Committee Update

After extensive deliberation, the Board advises that it has made its decision about the membership of the Accreditation Committee. Those persons selected are currently being contacted and must go through the relevant probity checks. When this is completed an announcement will be made on the Board's website. The Board would like to thank all applicants for their interest in contributing to this very important function (accreditation) of the Board as stipulated in the National Law.

Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines: Consultation

The Board confirms that it will issue draft guidelines for consultation in September 2012.

Legally Restricted Herbs

Under the various jurisdictional Poisons Lists Schedules 2-9 are adopted automatically by reference from the national *Standard for Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP)*, it is currently illegal for a Chinese herbal medicine practitioner or herbal dispenser to 'obtain, possess, use, sell or supply' certain Chinese herbs listed in the various schedules of the lists.

Some of the evidence (patient records) submitted by new applicants for registration indicates a lack of awareness about restricted herbs.

To assist practitioners throughout the country, the Board has decided to:

- publish the list previously distributed by the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria related to herbs restricted because they are captured by the Poisons Schedules; and
- update this list.

Communication Generally

The Board advises that in addition to this *Communiqué* (which relates to the Board meetings) it has decided to publish a quarterly newsletter. It will be distributed by email (as more than 95% of registrants have provided an email address). For a relatively small number of registrants who have not provided an email address, a hard-copy will be posted (while the Board still encourages them to provide email access as soon as practicable). Additionally, the website will be further redeveloped to improve its usefulness as a communication tool.

Professor Charlie Xue

Chair

30 August 2012