

Communiqué

19th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia, 26 March 2013

The March meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 26 March 2013 at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué provides key decisions made at this meeting.

This communiqué, like all others, will be published on the Board website and an announcement to a broad range of stakeholders will also be sent by an email. Please forward it onto colleagues who may be interested in the work of the National Board.

Policy Committee

The Committee has undertaken substantial work on the *Infection Control Guidelines for Acupuncture Practice* (the Guidelines). The National Board approved the Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions and the Explanatory Statement. These will be published on the Board's website within the next month.

The Committee will develop and publish supporting documents such as a *Summary of the Guidelines and a Quick Reference Guide*.

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Strategic Plan for 2013 - 2014

The Board conducted its inaugural strategic planning day on 22 January 2013 to set its priorities and ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of its operation in partnership with the Australian Health Profession Regulatory Agency (AHPRA). A working group has been set up to revise the document for the full Board's consideration at its April meeting.

Consultations

Under the National Scheme, all registration standards must be reviewed every three years, supported by a consultation process. The *English language skills registration standard* was introduced by the first 10 National Boards in the scheme in July 2010. This review is part of the routine three yearly review cycle which will involve all Boards.

The Chinese Medicine National Board is participating in this consultation to ensure any amendment to the *English language skills registration standard* applied after the grandparenting period (1 July 2015 onwards), generated in the review process, can be applied by this National Board.

A draft will be circulated for preliminary consultation in April, coordinated by AHPRA, with wider public consultation later in the year. AHPRA and the National Board encourage input from the stakeholders - including the professions - during all consultation processes.

Current consultations include a draft social media policy and revisions (to improve clarity) to both the advertising and mandatory reporting guidelines. Feedback is open til the end of May 2013. Drafts are published on the Board's [website](#).

Use of testimonials in advertising

The National Board requested clarity from AHPRA about the use of testimonials in advertising. Further information was provided to the National Board, referring to section 133 of *the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law)*. This prohibits the use of testimonials about a regulated health service. However, the National Board does not have the power to deal with testimonials used for unregulated health services.

Further information can be found in the *Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services*, located at: <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines.aspx>

Note: The National Board is currently consulting on proposed revisions to the advertising guidelines.

Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/

For more detail or with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Professor Charlie Xue
Chair
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
10 April 2013