

## Communiqué

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The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 26 November 2013 at AHPRA's National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting.

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

### AHPRA update

#### Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry

The Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee's inquiry into the performance of AHPRA is now due to report on 13 March 2014.

#### Annual report

The 2012/13 [Annual Report](#) of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards has been published. Pages 28-32 contain specific information provided by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

### Registration update

#### Renewal period

The renewal period for Chinese medicine registrants opened early September 2013. All registrants with general and non-practising registration were due to renew by 30 November 2013.

AHPRA will email reminders to those registrants (for which they hold a current email address) who have yet to renew.

Under the National Law, all registered Chinese medicine practitioners are responsible for renewing their registration on time each year and there is no option for AHPRA or the National Board to renew your registration after it has lapsed without a new application.

If you haven't renewed already, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the *Your Account* tab on the top right of the AHPRA website.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) are published on the website to answer any common queries you may have about registration renewal. A [Renewal fact sheet for Chinese medicine practitioners with conditions on registration](#) has also been published. It explains the assessment process and answers any concerns practitioners might have about delays in their registration being renewed if AHPRA requests more information.

### Notification update

The Notification Committee considered 11 matters at its October meeting. There are currently 17 open notification matters, including compliance matters, involving Chinese medicine practitioners.

### Policies, Standards, Codes and Guidelines Committee (Policy Committee)

The Policy Committee are continuing to develop draft guidelines on prescribing and dispensing therapeutic goods, specifically Chinese herbal medicines.

Draft supervision guidelines will be released for preliminary consultation, including to key stakeholders, National Boards and AHPRA operational staff for feedback when finalised.

### **New professional standards for practitioners**

The National Board will be publishing revised and new standards, codes and guidelines in 2014.

The first lot of documents will be published in February. They are the:

- revised Advertising guidelines
- Social media policy
- revised Mandatory reporting guidelines and
- revised Code of conduct.

These guidelines, policy and code will come in to effect in March 2014, and all Chinese medicine practitioners will need to meet these new standards.

Additional information will also be published in February, explaining the similarities and differences between the current and new standards.

The National Board consulted widely this year on the draft versions of these documents (and continue to consult on other important documents, see the *Consultations* page on the website).

Much work has also gone in to making sure that the format and language used in the documents meet plain language requirements, to make it easier to access and understand the important information in them. This month we are running a series of focus groups that will test the way the documents are presented, so that we can choose a design that supports ease of reading and understanding.

It is important for practitioners to understand the revised documents and make changes to their current approaches where necessary, for example, in relation to advertising.

More information about the revised registration standards, codes and guidelines will be published on the AHPRA and National Boards' websites in February.

Information on the consultation process and documents can be accessed at:

[www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/Past-Consultations.aspx)

### **Audit update**

AHPRA and the Board are developing a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with the mandatory registration standards.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration; they must make a declaration that they have met the registration standards for their profession. Practitioner audits are an important part of the way that the Board and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking these declarations made by a random sample of practitioners. The audit help to make sure that practitioners are meeting the required standards of practice and provide important assurance to the community and the Boards.

Auditing of all professions has commenced. If you are selected for audit you will be notified in writing and requested to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard.

Further information will be available soon on the Board's website.

Provisional information has been provided to practitioners in the Board's latest newsletter. AHPRA has released generic audit information on its [website](#).

### **Board membership update**

The current community member vacancy has not yet been filled.

### **Call for applications for appointment to National Boards**

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council), under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act as in force in each state and territory. Terms are expected to commence on 1 July 2014. Appointments and reappointments are for up to three years as decided by the Ministerial Council.

Applications are now sought for appointments to vacancies for members and Chairs to the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia, in the categories of health practitioner members and community members.

For more information on the role and the application process, please download the application guide and application form from the website. Submission requirements are detailed in the Application Form. Applications should be received by **5.00pm AEST on Monday 9 December 2013**.

### **Accreditation matters**

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia was asked by the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee to approve the final [accreditation standards](#) and endorse the accreditation process. Once these are finalised the Accreditation Committee will commence communication with education providers.

### **Call for expression of interest for appointment to Chinese medicine accreditation assessment teams**

The Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee seeks expressions of interest from individuals interested in being included on a list of approved assessors who the committee may appoint to accreditation assessment teams. The committee establishes teams to assess education providers and programs of study against accreditation standards.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Submission requirements are detailed in the application form, and further information can be accessed at:

[www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Committee.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Committee.aspx)

### **Newsletter**

The latest newsletter was published on 15 October 2013. It was emailed to registered practitioners, and is available on the Board website at [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2013-10-15-newsletter.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/News/2013-10-15-newsletter.aspx).

### **Important information for practitioners**

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration, including its expectations of practitioners, at [www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au). For more details or help with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHRPA on 1300 419 495.

Yours sincerely,

**Professor Charlie Xue**

Chair

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

3 December 2013