



Building community trust and protecting public safety: the Australian national registration of Chinese medicine practitioners

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I will cover:

- National Registration and Accreditation Scheme
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
 - Functions of the Board
 - Committees of the Board
- Snap shot of the Profession

National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

NRAS

Council of Australian Governments (COAG)

In 2008 decided to establish the National Scheme:

- One national scheme for all - The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009 (the National Law)
- National Boards: 10 + 4 health professions
- Registration and regulation of practitioners
- Accreditation of education and training
- New structure to support operations (AHPRA)

Transition

Then:

- 85 separate health practitioner boards
- 65 different pieces of legislation
- 8 separate state and territory regulatory systems

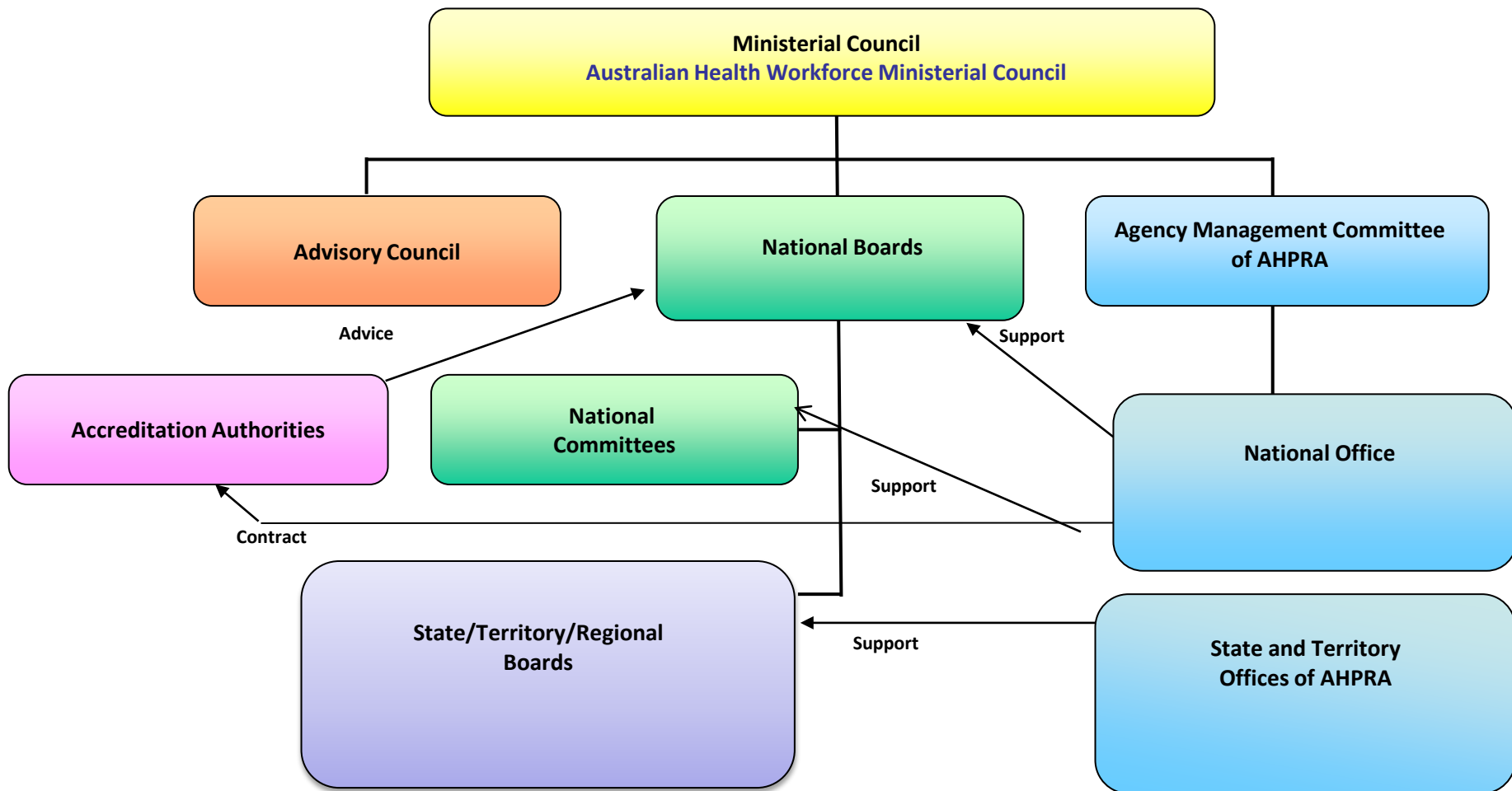
Now:

- 14 National Boards
- 1 National Law
- 1 National Registration and Accreditation Scheme

The system is designed to promote:

- **Mobility:** Register once, practise across Australia
- **Uniformity:** Consistent national standards
- **Efficiency:** Less red tape – streamlined
- **Collaboration:** Sharing, learning, understanding between professions
- **Transparency:** National online register - shows current conditions on practice

Organisational structure



Ministerial Council

Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council:

- Comprises the Health Ministers of the states/territories and the Commonwealth
- Appoint National Board members
- Give directions to AHPRA
- Approve standards

The National Boards

Primary role is to protect the public and set standards and policies that all registered health practitioners must meet

1. Developing standards, codes and guidelines
2. Registration
3. Managing notifications

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

AHPRA

AHPRA's Role

- Independent statutory regulatory body established under the National law
- Act of Parliament in each state and territory
- Not inside government
- Entirely funded by registrant fees
- Supports the National Boards to perform their functions
- Provides the human resources and infrastructure to enable the Boards to administer the National Law

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia CMBA

Functions of the CMBA

Develop standards, codes and guidelines for the Chinese Medicine profession

Approve accreditation standards and accredited courses of study

Register Chinese Medicine practitioners and students

Manage notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings

Assess overseas trained practitioners who wish to practise in Australia

CMBA National Committees

6 Committees

Functions, membership and terms of reference are on the website

Appointed by the Board to advise and make decisions where the Board has delegated functions under the National Law

Made up of National Board members and non-board members - appointed for their expertise

Develop standards, codes and guidelines for the Chinese Medicine profession

Advertising guidelines

Mandatory notifications guidelines

Code of conduct

Patient records guidelines

Continuing professional development guidelines

Infection prevention and control guidelines for
acupuncture practice

Approve accreditation standards and accredited courses of study

The role of the Accreditation Committee is to develop and recommend accreditation standards to the Board for approval and assess whether programs of study and education providers are meeting accreditation standards.

Accreditation standards help to ensure that education providers give students the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to competently practice in the profession.

Register Chinese Medicine practitioners and students

Divisions of Chinese medicine practitioner registration include:

- Acupuncture
- Chinese herbal medicine
- Chinese herbal dispensing

Grandparenting and General Registration Eligibility
Registration Standard (ends 1 July 2015)

Registration Standards

Continuing Professional Development

Criminal History

English Language Skills

Professional Indemnity Insurance Arrangements

Recency of Practice

Any Audit of practitioners will be against these standards

Manage notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings

Members of the public may make a notification to AHPRA about the conduct, health or performance of a practitioner or the health of a student

Practitioners, employers and education providers are all mandated by law to report notifiable conduct relating to a registered practitioner or student



Council of New South Wales



A statutory body that was established on 1 July 2012 under the [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(NSW\)](#).

The Council manages notifications (complaints) about the conduct, performance or health of Chinese medicine practitioners and students in NSW.

Not responsible for the registration of health practitioners or students - all registration matters for NSW are managed by the NSW AHPRA office

Limitations of the Board

Protect the public vs advocate for the profession

National Law vs other legislation across Australia

Funded by registrant fees vs private income

AHPRA provides support vs independent capacity

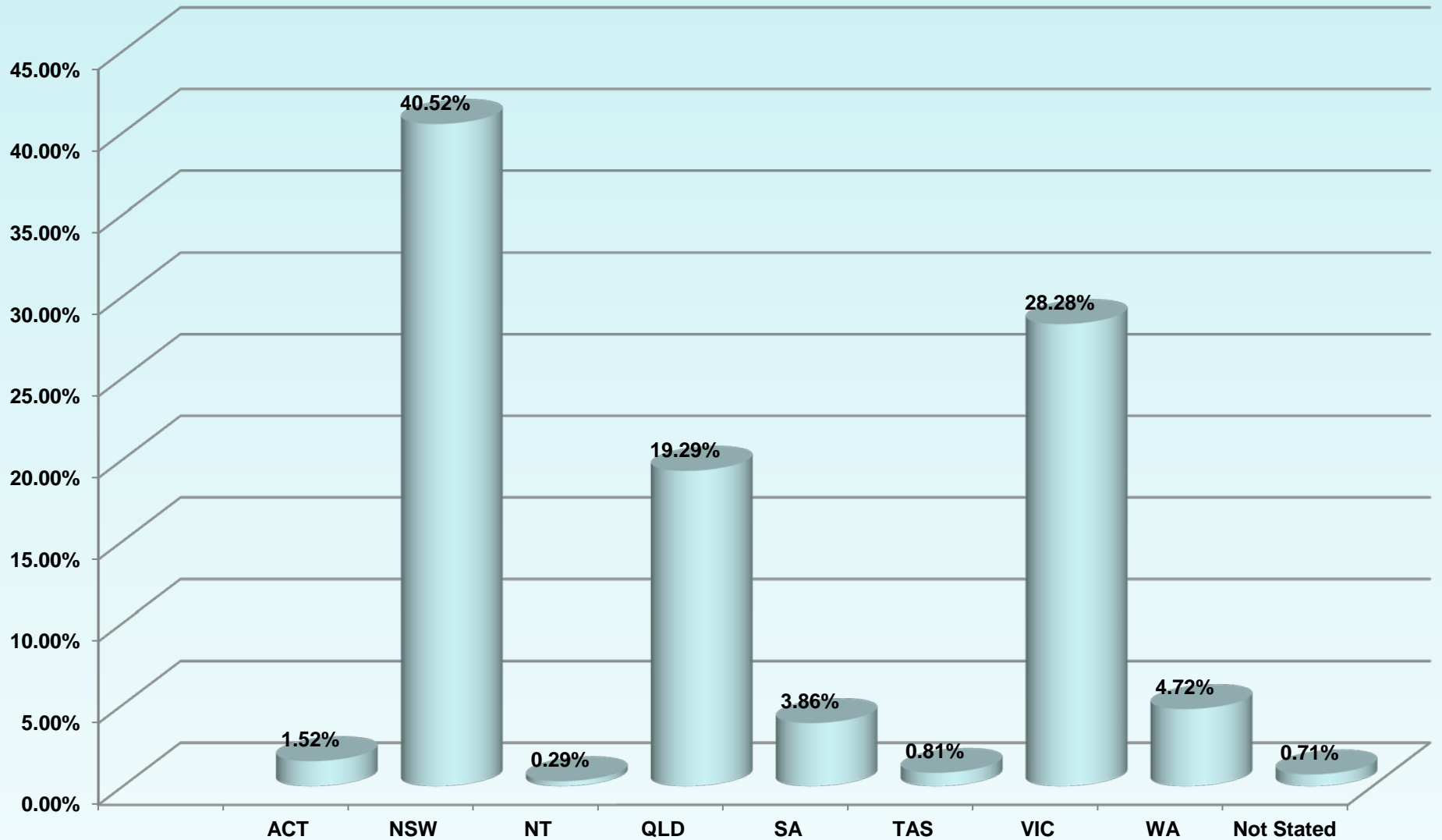
Regulation vs professional association

Snapshot of the profession

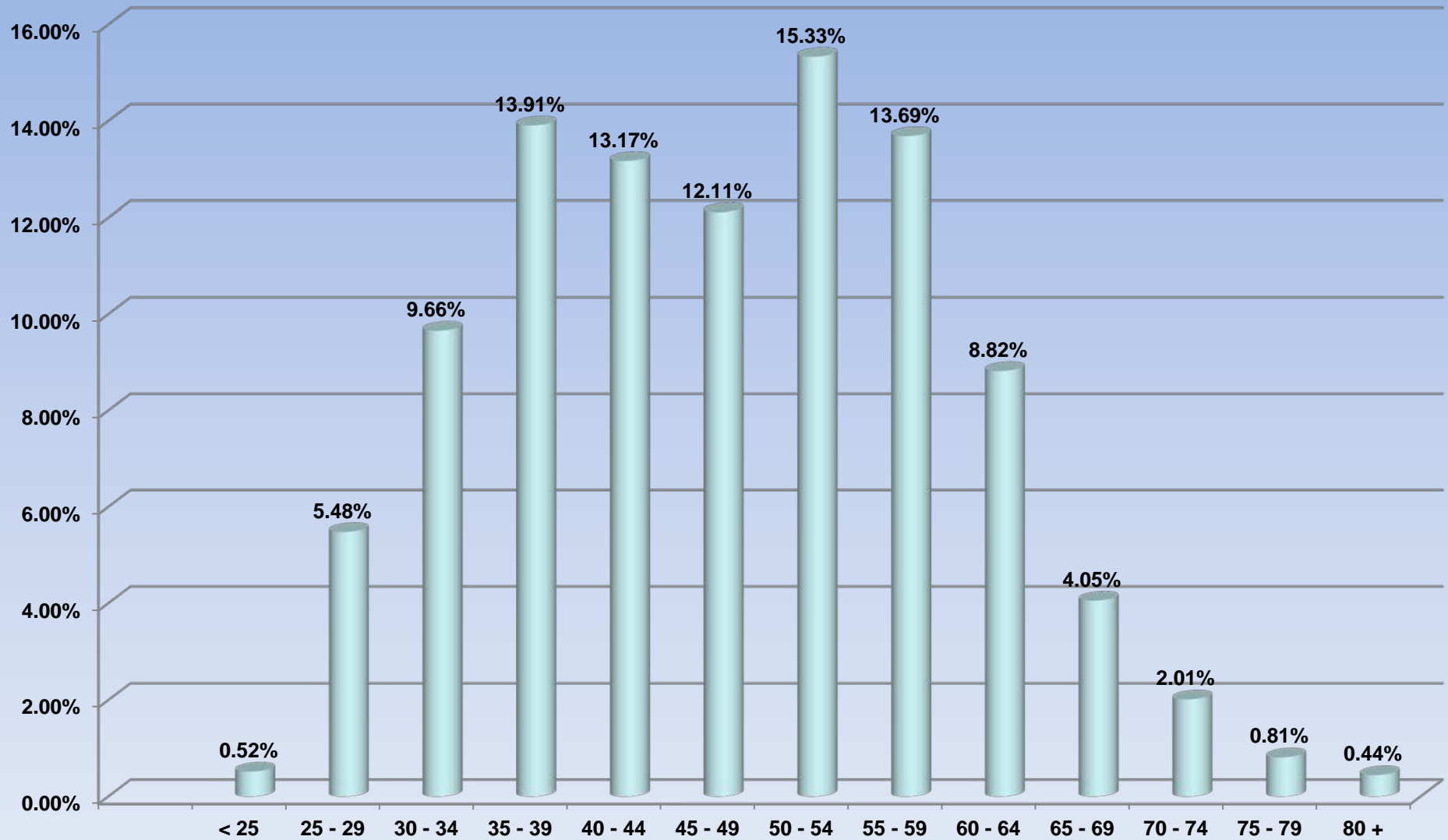
State and territory by registration type (at June 2013)

State	General	Limited	Non-Practising	Total	% by state
ACT	61		1	62	1.52%
NSW	1,644		5	1,649	40.52%
NT	10		2	12	0.29%
QLD	777	1	7	785	19.29%
SA	156		1	157	3.86%
TAS	33			33	0.81%
VIC	1,091		60	1,151	28.28%
WA	191		1	192	4.72%
Not stated	11		18	29	0.71%
TOTAL	3,974		95	4,070	23

Percentage by state and territory



Percentage by age



Notifications received and notifications closed in 2013/14

State/Territory	Received in 2012/13	Closed in 2013/14
ACT		
NT		
QLD	3	
SA	2	
TAS		
VIC	6	4
WA	2	
Sub Total	13	4
NSW	17	10
Total	30	14

Outcome for notifications closed under the national scheme

Outcome at closure in 2012/13	
No further action	2
Refer all of the notification to another body	
Refer part of the notification to another body	
HCE to retain	1
Caution	
Reprimand	
Accept undertaking	
Impose conditions	1
Fine registrant	
Suspend registrant	
Practitioner surrender	
Cancel registration	

Practitioners with registration conditions

(at October 2013)

Registration Condition	Number of registrants
Supervision conditions	22
Education conditions/re-entry plan	118
English Language conditions	773
TOTAL	913

Conditions are reviewed at time stated in conditions
and/or renewal time

Conditions placed on the public register

As a registered health practitioner

- You need to be registered to work
- Keep your details up to date
- You must meet all the registration standards
- You must comply with all codes and guidelines
- You are eligible to have a notification made about you

More information

FAQ: Information for the profession

www.ahpra.gov.au/chinese-medicine.aspx

Inquiries

- <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/about-ahpra/contact-us/make-an-enquiry.aspx>
- [Call 1300 419 495](tel:1300419495)

Chinese Medicine Council of NSW

- <http://www.hpca.nsw.gov.au/Chinese-Medicine/Home/Home/default.aspx>

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

Executive Officer: Ms Rebecca Lamb (acting)

AHPRA, G.P.O. Box 9958, Melbourne VIC 3001

Thank you for your time