

Communiqué

The 28th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 17 December 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.

Season's greetings

This meeting was the last for 2013 and gave the Board the opportunity to reflect on its operation, strategic targets and progress made over the last 12 months. The National Board would like to extend season's greetings to everyone who has supported the Board in its work during 2013 and wish them all the best for 2014.

Registration renewal

Chinese medicine practitioners were due to renew their registration by 30 November, with the late period closing on 31 December 2013.

By 1 January, 97 per cent of Chinese medicine practitioners had renewed their registration, the vast majority online.

The registration of practitioners who did not renew their registration by 31 December 2013 has now lapsed and their name will be removed from the public register. These practitioners must make a new application for registration and will **not be able to practise** until their application has been finalised and their registration details are updated on the national register.

Fast track application forms are available on the Board's website under [Forms](#) or by phoning the AHPRA Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 during January.

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 advised the National Board that poor infection prevention and control practices is a common theme in notifications.

The Board has published its [Infection control quick reference guide](#) on its website to accompany the *Infection prevention and control guidelines for Acupuncture practice*. The Board has also published on the same webpage a powerpoint presentation presented at an international acupuncture conference held in early November 2013.

Infection prevention and control

The Board has been notified about a discussion paper from the Western Australian Department of Health proposing to review the:

- Health (Skin Penetration Procedures) Regulations 1998
- Hairdressing Establishment Regulations 1972, and

- Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures.

The discussion paper and the guidelines are available at www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/1773/2/body_art_and_personal_appearances_review.pm

There are online survey questions to be completed before 31 March 2014.

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 registered health 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.

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

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

The Board will be consulting in early 2014 on draft guidelines on prescribing and dispensing therapeutic goods, specifically Chinese herbal medicines.

Accreditation matters

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia has approved the final [accreditation standards](#) and endorsed the accreditation process.

Important information for practitioners

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration, including its expectations of practitioners, at 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

2 January 2014