

## Communiqué

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The 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 25 March 2014 at AHPRA's National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting.

This communiqué is published on the National Board website and an announcement to a broad range of stakeholders is also sent by email.

Please forward the communiqué 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 (committee) tabled its report on the inquiry into the performance of AHPRA on 12 March 2014. AHPRA has published a [media release](#) in response to the committee's report.

#### Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

If you were in the Twittersphere in late March 2014, you may have noticed that AHPRA has joined the conversation. Less than two weeks into AHPRA's social media journey, the CEO Martin Fletcher ran a live chat #AHPRAqanda.

The chat included nearly 60 participants, and AHPRA tweeted 99 times in the hour. If you missed it, see the chat archive from [the Twitter chat with AHPRA CEO page](#) on the AHPRA website.

AHPRA decided to hold the chat to respond to the online conversations about the National Board advertising guidelines, which gained momentum on Twitter with a number of practitioners and members of the community.

AHPRA will regularly host twitter chats about important topics, and will use this forum to try and get more feedback to National Board consultations.

### Registration update

#### Grandparenting provisions end 30 June 2015

Registration under the national scheme is a requirement in all state and territories in Australia.

The National Board's grandparenting provisions have been in place since Chinese medicine became a nationally regulated health profession in July 2012. These provisions end on 30 June 2015.

The National Board introduced the grandparenting provisions to make sure that practitioners who are legitimately practising the profession (particularly in those jurisdictions that did not require registration before 1 July 2012) would not be unjustly disadvantaged by it becoming regulated in accordance with the [National Law](#).

The grandparenting provisions allow practitioners who have not been previously registered, or do not hold an approved program of study qualification, to apply for registration with the National Board.

As these provisions finish on 30 June 2015, the National Board encourages anyone who thinks they may be eligible to apply sooner rather than later, as processing applications can take some time.

To find out more, please refer to the National Board's [Grandparenting and general registration eligibility registration standard](#).

## Notification update

The Notification Committee considered three matters at its February 2014 meeting. There are currently 11 open notification matters (including compliance) involving Chinese medicine practitioners.

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

The Policy Committee continues to address feedback from targeted stakeholders on preliminary consultations on the proposed:

- *Guidelines on writing prescriptions, labelling and dispensing for Chinese medicine practitioners* (for which the proposed new title is the *Safe practice guidelines for Chinese herbal medicine practice*), and
- *Supervision guidelines for Chinese medicine practitioners*.

Preliminary consultation to a target audience gives the National Board the opportunity to road-test proposed content before releasing it for an extended public consultation.

Once feedback is adequately addressed, the National Board will go to public consultation on both guidelines as soon as practicable.

## Advertising guidelines: update

Revised *Advertising guidelines* came into effect on 17 March 2014, for all the regulated health professions. These are published under [Codes and guidelines](#) on the National Board website.

The guidelines were developed by the National Boards and explain the requirements of the [National Law](#) in relation to advertising and the use of testimonials in advertising. The National Law does not allow testimonials to be used when advertising a regulated health service (section 133).

On 26 March 2014, the Medical Board of Australia announced it would revise the guidelines to make them clearer about the use of testimonials. Read the [news item](#) on the Medical Board of Australia website.

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia, along with the other 13 National Boards, is now considering whether to revise and clarify the wording on testimonials as part of implementing the new *Advertising guidelines*.

We will keep practitioners informed and in the meantime, AHPRA is managing complaints about advertising in line with the information in the [advertising FAQ](#) the National Board website.

This means practitioners are not responsible for removing (or trying to have removed) unsolicited testimonials published on a website or in social media over which they don't have control.

## Audit update

AHPRA and the National Board have developed a nationally consistent approach to auditing health practitioners' compliance with mandatory registration standards.

Each time a practitioner applies to renew their registration, they must make an annual declaration that they have met the registration standards for the Chinese medicine profession.

The audit is an important part of the way that the National Board and AHPRA can better protect the public by regularly checking these declarations.

Audits of random samples from all professions will run periodically throughout the year. If you are selected for audit, you will be notified in writing and will need to provide evidence that you meet the requirements of the standard.

More audit information is available under [Audit](#) on the National Board's website.

## Board membership update

Under the National Scheme, National Board members are appointed for a period of up to three years. This means that the first term for all members who were appointed in July 2011 will expire by the end of June 2014.

Existing National Board members, like new applicants, are required to apply for positions in the National Board from July 2014.

Applications have now closed for appointments to vacancies for members and Chair of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia in the categories of health practitioner members and community members.

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (Ministerial Council), under the National Law.

The National Board expects the Ministerial Council to announce new member appointments before 1 July 2014.

### **Accreditation matters**

The Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee has made appointments to the list of approved assessors who may undertake accreditation assessments. The Accreditation Committee expects to receive the first applications for accreditation assessment from education providers in the near future.

### **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  
9 April 2014