

Communiqué

The 33rd meeting (the last meeting of the first term of the Board) of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 24 June 2014 at AHPRA's State Office of New South Wales in Sydney. 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.

New and reappointed Chair and Board members of the Chinese Medicine Board

Health ministers announced the new and reappointed Chair and Board members of the Chinese Medicine Board in June 2014. I have been reappointed as Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia for the second term from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017. Professor Craig Zimitat (Community Member from Tasmania) and Di Wen Lai (Practitioner member for Western Australia) have also been reappointed for another term.

The new appointments and reappointments are the result of the inaugural terms ending for members appointed by the Ministerial Council in 2011.

The Board extends very sincere thanks to all outgoing and previous Board members for their dedication to and work on the National Scheme and for contributing to the safety of the public by ensuring access to health practitioners who are safe and adequately trained and qualified. They are:

- Jenny Chou, Practitioner member (South Australia)
- Stephen Janz, Practitioner member (Queensland)
- Haisong Wang, Practitioner member (ACT)
- Dr Xiaoshu Zhu, Practitioner member (NSW)

Former Board members:

- Alison Christou (till 31 July 2012), Community member (Queensland)
- Vivian Lin (till 15 July 2013), Community Member (Victoria)

The new Board members to be welcomed from 1 July 2014 are:

- Mr Roderick Martin Appointed as a practitioner member from Queensland for a period of 3 years from 1 July 2014 (first term)
- Dr Liang Zhong Chen Appointed as a practitioner member from South Australia for a period of 3 years from 1 July 2014 (first term)
- Ms Christine Berle Appointed as a practitioner member from New South Wales for a period of 3 years from 1 July 2014 (first term)

Sydney forum for practitioners and students of Chinese medicine - 23 June 2014

The Sydney Open Forum was attended by over 100 practitioners who had many interesting questions for the Board. The Board has considered a similar event to be held in Queensland and Victoria in the near future. Please check the websites for updates.

Current Consultations

Consultation is an important part of the Board's engagement with members of the profession, members of the public and other stakeholders. The feedback provided via consultation is greatly valued, and informs the Board's development of important documents. Current consultations are published under [News > Consultations](#) on the website.

Draft guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice

Submissions close: 23 July 2014

Draft supervision guidelines for Chinese medicine practitioners

Submissions close: 31 July 2014

Newsletter

The June newsletter has been released. If you have an email registered with AHPRA then you will receive it directly. It is also published on the Board's website under the *News* tab.

If you wish to receive this, please check your contact details lodged with AHPRA through the [Your Account](#) tab on the top right of the AHPRA website.

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link above, use your unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. Your User ID is not your registration number. If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

From **1 July 2014**, a new law comes in to effect in Queensland, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*.

From this date, all complaints about Queensland health practitioners will be received by the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) who will either manage the matters or refer them to the relevant National Board to manage.

Complaints that were made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA on behalf of National Boards. However, under the new law the Office of the Health Ombudsman can request that a matter be referred to them to be managed. If this were to happen, AHPRA will inform both the notifier and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification.

For information about the Office of the Health Ombudsman please go to www.oho.qld.gov.au or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

Data access and research policy

AHPRA and National Boards regularly receive requests for access to data about registered Chinese medicine practitioners. The *Data access and research policy* was developed by AHPRA and National Boards to maximise benefits that data access can bring, while managing risks to the privacy of practitioners whose information we have collected and hold for the purposes of the National Law and other statutory obligations. The policy is available on the AHPRA [website](#).

Regulatory principles endorsed for National Scheme

The National Boards and AHPRA will be launching refreshed regulatory principles that will underpin the work of the Boards and AHPRA in regulating Australia's health practitioners, in the public interest.

The principles are endorsed by all National Boards and the AHPRA Agency Management Committee and will guide Boards and AHPRA when they are making decisions.

The principles encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation across all professions within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme).

Regulatory decision making is complex and contextual, requiring judgment, experience and common sense. The principles will further support decision making which is consistent and balanced and is published at www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2014-07-01-regulatory-principles.aspx

Updating contact details

To check your contact details, go to the Your Account link on the AHPRA homepage, and enter your User ID, date of birth and password (please note that your User ID is not your registration number). If you cannot remember your user ID or password, contact us online or call: 1300 419 495.

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
7 July 2014