

Communiqué

The 34th meeting (the first meeting of the 2nd term of the Board) of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 22 July 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.

Forum for practitioners and students of Chinese medicine – Melbourne and Brisbane

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for Chinese medicine practitioner registration has been in operation for two years. The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) is conducting a number of meetings/forums to engage more directly with the profession. This has been identified as a strategic priority for 2014/15.

Following the success of the Sydney Open Forum held on 22 June 2014, the Board will hold a similar event in:

- Melbourne, Victoria the evening of Monday 22 September 2014
- Brisbane, Queensland the evening of Monday 24 November 2014

Please check the websites for updates if you would like to attend.

New Board committees

The National Board has restructured its committees and appointed the following members to its two committees. In doing so the Board sought to involve the new members of the Board as soon as possible in Board Committees, but retain some previous incumbents to ensure continuity. The new memberships listed below are due to commence in September 2014.

The Board wishes to express its gratitude to all the practitioners and community members who have previously served on the Registration Committee and the Notifications Committee since commencement in July 2012. A huge workload and responsibility was executed and could not have been without the commitment of these people.

New Registration and Notifications Committee

The Terms of Reference, which will be published on the website state that five members are to be appointed to this committee as follows:

- three (3) members from the Board (one of whom will be the Committee Chair appointed by the Board)
- two (2) non-Board members, and
- two (2) of the five positions will be community members.

1. Chair: Community Board member, Professor Craig Zimitat
2. Deputy Chair: Practitioner non-Board member, Mr Peter Gigante
3. Practitioner Board member: Dr Liang Zhong Chen
4. Practitioner Board member: Ms Christine Berle, and
5. Community non-Board member: Mr David Halstead

New Policy, Planning and Communications Committee

The Terms of Reference, which will be published on the website state that this committee will comprise of four members. The Chair must be a member of the Board and the remaining three members may include relevant AHPRA staff, external stakeholders or participants with particular areas of expertise.

1. Chair: Community Board member, Dr Anne Fletcher
2. Deputy Chair: Community Board member, Ms Esther Alter
3. Practitioner Board member: Dr Di Wen Lai (Chinese Medicine)
4. Practitioner Board member: Mr Roderick Martin
5. In attendance: Ms Anita Rivera, AHPRA National Director Communication

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 through consultation is greatly valued, and informs the Board's development of important policies and procedures and Guidelines. Current consultations are published under [News > Consultations](#) on the website.

Draft supervision guidelines for Chinese medicine practitioners

Submissions close: 31 July 2014 so please take the time to review this important document.

Draft guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice

Submissions closed: 23 July 2014 and the Board will now take time to carefully analyse and consider the feed-back it has received.

National Boards consult on practitioners with blood borne viruses

All 14 National Boards are inviting practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback on guidelines that will determine how, from a regulatory perspective, health practitioners with blood borne viruses should be managed.

Under the proposed guidelines, registered health practitioners with blood borne viruses must comply with the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) guidelines on this issue to ensure their practice does not compromise patient safety.

The CDNA offers strategic advice to governments and other key bodies on public health actions to minimise the impact of communicable diseases, and their [*Australian National Guidelines for the Management of Health Care Workers known to be infected with blood-borne viruses*](#) are endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council.

The National Boards' proposed guidelines allow health practitioners infected with a blood-borne virus to practise their profession if they comply with the CDNA guidelines. However, they may have to modify their practice. For example, they will not be able to perform certain procedures such as exposure-prone procedures if the CDNA guidelines stop them from doing so.

The current CDNA guidelines define an exposure prone procedure as a procedure where there is a risk of injury to the healthcare worker resulting in exposure of the patient's open tissues to the blood of the worker. These procedures include those where the worker's hands (whether gloved or not) may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient's open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands or fingertips may not be completely visible at all times.

The National Boards have published a consultation paper to support the proposed guidelines, [accessible here](#). The consultation is open until 26 September 2014.

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 AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Charlie Xue

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

30 July 2014