

## Communiqué

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1 December 2014

The 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at AHPRA's National Office in Brisbane, Queensland. This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting.

This communiqué is published on the National Board [website](#) and an announcement via email is sent to a broad range of stakeholders.

Please forward the communiqué to colleagues who may be interested in the work of the National Board.

### **Reminder: renewal of registration for 2014/15**

The deadline for Chinese medicine practitioners to renew their registration was 30 November 2014. Chinese medicine practitioners who forgot to renew their registration by this date are able to submit a [Fast Track application](#) form.

If you do not renew your registration by 31 December 2014 (end of the one month late period), your registration will lapse in accordance with the National Law and your name will be removed from the national register.

If you wish to keep practising and do not renew registration by 31 December, you must submit a fast track application for registration. Fast track application forms are available on the Board website or by phoning the Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 during January 2015.

If submitting a fast track application, you cannot continue to practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

### **Board Planning**

The Board has commenced its planning process for the 2015/2016 year. It will revise its strategic statement and regulatory workplan and publish this in due course.

### **Chinese medicine regulation at work in Australia 2013/14**

This year for the first time, in addition to an annual report, AHPRA and Chinese Medicine Board of Australia have also published:

- a profession-specific summary on the regulation of Chinese medicine in Australia, which provides a clear snapshot of the profession (the first time such a report is available), and
- a summary for each state and territory about the regulation of all the professions in the National Scheme.

The summaries and annual report are published on the AHPRA website under [Publications](#). The documents can also be accessed via the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia [website](#)

### **Strengthening international criminal history checks**

From early 2015, National Boards and AHPRA will implement a new procedure for checking the criminal history of international applicants when they apply for registration. The new approach aims to protect the public without unnecessarily delaying the registration process for applicants.

For more information, please read the [media release](#) on the AHPRA website.

## Practitioner Forum in Brisbane: 24 November 2014

The National Board is conducting a number of forums to improve direct engagement with the profession. Stakeholder engagement has been identified as a strategic priority by the National Board for 2014/15.

The first forum was held in June 2014 in Sydney, followed by the second one in Melbourne in September. The third forum was held in Brisbane on Monday, 24 November 2014. The Board plans to conduct further fora and plans to also conduct webinars to assist remote/rurally located practitioners to participate more readily. Details will be published on the National Board's [website](#).

## End of Grandparenting

The option to register under the 'grandparenting' arrangements ends on 30 June 2015. The Board is planning to conduct an awareness campaign in 2015 to encourage those who may be eligible to apply for registration to get their applications in by 30 June 2015. From 1 July 2015, the only way to become registered is to meet the National Board's post-grandparenting registration standards.

## Actions to improve the consumer experience

### HIC report published online

A report recommending ways to improve consumers' interaction with the National Scheme has been published, along with a list of actions that AHPRA is taking to address the issues raised.

In March this year, AHPRA commissioned the Health Issues Centre Victoria (HIC) to investigate and make suggestions to improve the consumer experience of the National Scheme that regulates health practitioners.

AHPRA has published the HIC report – *Setting things right: Improving the consumer experience of AHPRA including the joint notification process between AHPRA and OHSC*. Accompanying the report is AHPRA's action plan, which outlines what work AHPRA has done to date, and what will be done next, to address the report's recommendations. Both documents can be accessed via [AHPRA's News page](#).

AHPRA has committed to reporting publicly on its actions to improve the experience of people who make a notification (complaint about a health practitioner).

The HIC drew on historical and current data to come up with clear picture of the current experience of consumers who have made a complaint about a practitioner. The research focused on the experience of Victorian notifiers, but AHPRA's action plan applies the improvements nationally.

## Updating contact details

To check the contact details you have lodged with AHPRA, 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.

## Follow @AHPRA on Twitter

AHPRA will be using [Twitter](#) to encourage a greater overall response to National Board consultations and to host regular Twitter chats on important topics.

## 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 AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

## Professor Charlie Xue

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

1 December 2014