

Communiqué

24 December 2014

The 39th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 16 December 2014 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne, Victoria. 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.

Season's greetings

This meeting was the last for 2014 and it affords the National Board an opportunity to reflect on the previous year of work. The National Board would like to extend its thanks and season's greetings to everyone who has supported the Board in its work during 2014 and wish them all the best for 2015.

Reminder: renewal of registration for 2014/15

Chinese medicine practitioners were due to renew their registration by 30 November 2014. AHPRA has already forwarded registration renewal information to all registrants.

If you didn't renew your registration on time, you can still renew until **31 December 2014** (end of the one month late period), but a late fee will apply. The quickest and easiest way to do this is [online](#).

Practitioners who do not renew by the end of the late period will have their registration lapse. Their name will be removed from the national register of practitioners. This means they must make a new application for registration and will **not be able to practise** until their new application has been finalised.

If you wish to keep practising a fast track application can be made, but only during January 2015. Fast track application forms are available on the Board website or by phoning the Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495. If submitting a fast track application in January, you cannot return to practise until your application is processed and your registration details are updated on the national register.

Public consultation on draft *Registration standard: Limited registration for teaching or research*

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia is undertaking public consultation on its draft *Registration standard: Limited registration for teaching or research*. See [Current consultations](#) on the Board's website. Submissions close Friday 13 February 2015.

Notifications

Notifications (concerns or complaints) can be made about a Chinese medicine practitioner's [health, conduct or performance](#). Anyone can raise a notification by contacting AHPRA, unless the concern or complaint is about an incident in [New South Wales or Queensland](#). In NSW the notifications process is managed by the Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) and in Queensland, complaints are received by the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO).

The powers of the National Boards and AHPRA are set down in the National Law. Responding to notifications about the health, conduct or performance of practitioners is one of the most important parts of the Board's role in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Keeping the public safe is the goal that guides the way we deal with each notification we receive. When we look at notifications, we consider whether the practitioner has failed to meet the standards set by the Board; and consider what needs to happen to make sure that the practitioner is aware of what has gone

wrong and learns from this, so the same problem doesn't happen again. The Boards also consider if they need to limit a practitioner's registration in some way to keep the public safe.

There is a consistent process for managing notifications, but there is no uniform response as every notification is different. The fact that a notification has been made does not automatically affect a practitioner's ability to practise unless the notification indicates there is [a serious risk to public safety](#).

Further information on notification outcomes and hearing decisions is available on the AHPRA [website](#).

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 phone 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. 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
24 December 2014