

## Communiqué

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25 August 2015

The 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 25 August 2015 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne, Victoria.

This communiqué provides key decisions made at the meeting. It is also published on the Board's [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 Board.

### Farewell to outgoing Board member

The Board expressed its gratitude to outgoing community member Ms Esther Alter for her contribution and effort towards the Board's work throughout her term of appointment.

The Board awaits the ministerial appointment of a practitioner member from Northern Territory, Tasmania or ACT and a new community member.

### Consultation on health records guidelines

The Board has released a public consultation seeking feedback on proposed [revisions](#) to guidelines that have been in effect since 2012 when Chinese medicine practice became nationally regulated. The current guideline, which is titled *Patient record guidelines* is available under the [Codes and Guidelines](#) section of the Board's website. In addition, the Board published an explanatory statement in 2012 following the previous consultation.

Practitioners should note the name change for the revised guidelines. The *Patient record guidelines* are now due for a scheduled review after three years of implementation. The review coincides with the end of grandparenting arrangements (on 30 June 2015) under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The public consultation paper is published under the [Consultations](#) section of the Board's website.

### Perth Forum invitation for practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia invites practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine to attend an information forum being held at The University of Western Australia Claremont Campus on Monday, 23 November 2015. Further details are now available on the Board's [website](#).

### Review of the National Scheme

The Board reviewed the [report of the independent review](#) of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions (the Review) and the accompanying [communiqué](#) that were released by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 7 August 2015.

The Review was conducted by Mr Kim Snowball, a former senior public servant and the former Director General of WA Health. The Review comprised an extensive consultation process which included more than 230 written submissions and the involvement of more than 1,000 individuals from across the country. There was also input from key stakeholders, including practitioners and professional associations.

The Board noted that Health Ministers agreed to implement a number of key recommendations to improve complaints and notifications systems and strengthen community participation in National Board governance to ensure the National Scheme is responsive to consumers. They also accepted the recommendation to allow either a practitioner member or a community member to be appointed as Chairperson of a National Board.

Health Ministers deferred all decisions relating to the consolidation of the nine low volume regulatory National Boards and have sought further advice on this option for their December meeting. They have asked AHPRA to work with National Boards to simplify and reduce the number of committees in the National Scheme to streamline governance.

Health Ministers asked for further work to be done on the current model for accreditation functions to identify changes to reduce duplication to improve efficiency, effectiveness and administrative arrangements.

The Review identified a lack of clarity regarding the purpose and scope of the National Scheme and agreed to issue a communiqué to clarify the basis for any new professions entering the scheme and to propose a process for unregistered professions to raise concerns about government policy, funding and programs.

### **Updating contact details**

To check or update the contact details you have lodged with AHPRA, access the online services panel for practitioners on the homepage of the Board's website and click *Update your contact details*. Enter your user ID, date of birth and password (please note that your user ID is not your registration number). If you don't remember your user ID or password, contact us [online](#) or phone 1300 419 495 for help.

### **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  
8 September 2015