

Communiqué

The 48th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 27 October 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 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.

Release of Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice

The Board will soon publish guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice and supporting explanatory materials. Prior to publication it will be providing specific briefings to the major professional associations.

Renewal of registration

Online renewal of registration is open for Chinese medicine practitioners registered in Australia.

Chinese medicine practitioners who are due to renew their general or non-practising registration with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) by 30 November can apply online now.

A series of reminders to renew are being sent to practitioners by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), on behalf of the Board. The email reminders include a link to online renewal.

Useful information for Chinese medicine practitioners is on the Board's website:

- [Registration standards](#)
- [Registration renewal](#)
- [Renewal FAQ](#)

First program approved under the National Law

At its October 2015 meeting the Board decided to approve the following program as providing a qualification for the purposes of general registration in all three divisions of the register of Chinese Medicine practitioners:

- Bachelor of Health Science (Chinese Medicine) offered by Think: Colleges Pty Ltd trading as Southern School of Natural Therapies.

New member of Policy, Planning and Communications Committee

The Board has appointed Dr Brian May to assist the Policy, Planning and Communications Committee (PPCC) for six months. This committee:

- considers and advises the Board on any emerging issues that may have strategic or policy implications
- advises the Board on matters pertaining to professional standards, codes and guidelines to be developed or adopted by the Board
- prepares and draft codes and guidelines for Board consideration and stakeholder consultation
- assists the Board in developing, managing and reviewing the Board's strategic plan and work plan
- advises the Board and participates in policy implementation and evaluation as required
- advises on short and long-term priorities within the communication strategy, and any necessary shifts in focus as the National Scheme progresses and issues emerge
- oversees the development of communication materials

- identifies opportunities for new or enhanced practitioner and/or stakeholder engagement
- undertakes other tasks as requested by the Board, and
- reports at least quarterly to the Board on matters falling within these terms of reference.

Perth forum for practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine

- The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia will hold an information forum for practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine at the University of Western Australia Claremont campus on Monday, 23 November 2015.

Offences under the National Law

AHPRA has recently published information regarding '[What is an offence?](#)' Offences are breaches of the National Law, committed by registered health practitioners and unregistered individuals.

There are a number of offences created under the National Law, including the following:

- unlawful use of a protected title
- performing a restricted act
- holding out (claims by individuals or organisations as to registration), and
- unlawful advertising.

The webpage provides information about a new way in which offence complaints can be lodged.

ATO urges medical practice owners to prepare for SuperStream

National Boards communicate regularly and widely with the health practitioners they regulate.

From time to time, AHPRA and the National Boards are asked to use these communication channels to deliver key messages on behalf of their strategic partners including different levels and areas of government.

The Australian Tax Office is reminding health practice owners, including Chinese medicine practices, that employ 19 or fewer employees (small businesses) they need to pay their superannuation obligations via SuperStream.

Further information is available from the ATO [website](#).

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. 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 C Xue

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
30 October 2015