

## Communiqué

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The 58th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 27 September 2016 in Melbourne.

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.

### Chinese Medicine Reference Group – call for expressions of interest

The Board finalised the *Terms of Reference* and [has announced](#) the establishment of a Chinese Medicine Reference Group (the Reference Group).

The purpose of the Reference Group will be to enhance communication about and understanding of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) from varying perspectives. This includes individual practitioners, consumers and key stakeholder groups representing the educational institutions and the peak practitioner and industry groups.

The Board will now publish a call for expressions of interest in membership.

### Regulatory work plan and risk management

The Board is currently working on a work plan - including a risk management plan - to guide the implementation of the 2015–2020 regulatory plan.

### Revised Terms of Reference for the PPCC

The Board has revised the Terms of Reference for its Policy, Planning and Communications Committee and these are published [here](#).

### More information about your advertising obligations

National Boards across the National Scheme continued to discuss issues about claims in advertising, in particular claims about benefits of treatments.

The Board would like to remind all Chinese medicine practitioners that they must comply with the provisions of the National Law on the advertising of regulated health services, relevant national, state and territory consumer protection legislation and, if applicable, legislation regulating the advertising of therapeutic goods.

The Board has published further information on its [website](#) to help Chinese medicine practitioners better understand their advertising obligations, including further information on advertising therapeutic claims.

This information does not replace the Board's [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#) which should be your first point of reference to understanding your obligations.

The burden is on you to substantiate any claim you make that your treatments benefit patients. If you do not understand whether the claims you have made can be substantiated based on acceptable evidence, then remove them from your advertising.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for prosecuting breaches of the advertising requirements in the National Law. This means that AHPRA with the Board needs to decide whether there has been a breach of your advertising obligations.

These are serious matters that can have serious consequences for your professional standing and your criminal record: if in doubt about a claim, leave it out of your advertising.

### Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee appointment

In accordance with the terms of reference for this committee, the Board has appointed Dr Wei Hong (Angela) Yang as Deputy Chair of the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee.

### News from AHPRA

The Board works in partnership with AHPRA and the other 13 National Boards to deliver the [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme](#) (the National Scheme).

While we publish [news](#) specific to our work in regulating Chinese medicine practitioners, AHPRA [publishes](#) updates on work from across the National Scheme. This includes communiqués from key meetings with government and other stakeholders.

We encourage you to review these from time to time. You are also able to subscribe to the AHPRA newsletter by [registering here](#).

### Updating your 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 uses [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 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, notifications or other matters relevant to the National Scheme, refer to information published on [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au) or [contact AHPRA](#), send an [online enquiry form](#) or call on 1300 419 495.

### Professor Charlie C Xue

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia  
3 October 2016

*The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia is the regulator of Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia and acts to protect the public by ensuring that suitably qualified and competent Chinese medicine practitioners are registered. The Board is responsible for developing registration standards, codes and guidelines for Chinese medicine practitioners and managing notifications (complaints)\* about Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicine students. The Board does this through its powers under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). The Board's work in regulating Australia's Chinese medicine practitioners in the public interest is underpinned by [regulatory principles](#), which encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation.*

*\*Except in NSW and Qld which have co-regulatory arrangements.*