

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

February 2017 meeting

The 62nd meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 21 February 2017 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.

The Board welcomed new community board member, Virginia Ryan to her first Board meeting and appointed her to the 'Registration and Notifications Committee'. Practitioner board member, Christine Berle has now been appointed to the 'Policy, Planning and Communications Committee'.

The Board noted that a new consultation paper on reforms to the complementary medicines framework in Australia has just been released by the TGA with a response date of 28 March 2017 – it is available from <http://www.tga.gov.au/open-consultations-reviews>

The Board noted the decision of the Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW in relation to registered Chinese medicine practitioner Dr Shuquan Liu. The full decision is available here - [Health Care Complaints Commission v Liu](#)

Happy New Year

This was the first meeting of the New Year and the Board extends its best wishes to all practitioners, stakeholders and partners for their continued interest during 2017. This year will be another busy one for the Board, with a large schedule of work to progress key policy matters and reviews and engage with stakeholders and Chinese medicine practitioners to help them better understand the Board and the National Law.

Chinese Medicine Reference Group

Members were due attend the first meeting on 22 February 2017. Further information about the group will be in the Board's next newsletter.

Update to the Chinese herbal nomenclature compendium

The Board is in the process of updating this based primarily of the recently published new edition of *The Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*. The Board will publish the revision soon and make an announcement when this occurs. It will also revise the user guide.

New vacancies on the Board – are you interested?

There are multiple practitioner member and community member vacancies arising on the Chinese Medicine Board.

All appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory. Appointments are for up to three years as decided by the Ministerial Council.

More information about the roles, eligibility requirements and the application process can be found in the information guide and application form on the Board's [Call for applications](#) page.

Applications close **Monday 20 March 2017, 5pm AEST.**

Accreditation Systems Review

The Board is awaiting the release of a discussion paper related to this important review. Interested parties will be invited to provide feedback at various national consultation forums. Details will be published at <http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Projects/Accreditation-Systems-Review>

Chinese medicine regulation at work: Protecting the public in 2015/16

A profession-specific annual report summary that looks into the work of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia over the year to 30 June 2016 has now been published.

Insights into the profession include:

- 4,762 Chinese medicine practitioners were registered as of 30 June 2016.
- Registration for the profession grew by 6% from 30 June 2015.
- Chinese medicine practitioners accounted for 0.7% of all registered health practitioners in Australia.
- 55% of these registrants are women; 45% are men.
- New South Wales was the principal place of practice for most of these practitioners (1,953; 41%); the Northern Territory was home to the least (17; 0.4%).
- The age bracket with the most practitioners was 40-44 (673; 14%).
- 39 practitioners were under 25 years of age (0.8% of the profession); 14 were over 80 (0.3% of the profession).
- 1,318 people registered as students of the profession, a decrease of 11% year on year.
- As part of the registration process, 933 criminal history checks were carried out. Of 60 disclosable court outcomes, none required regulatory action.
- 54 notifications (complaints or concerns) were lodged about Chinese medicine practitioners during the year, equating to 1.1% of the profession.

The report draws on data from the [2015/16 annual report](#) by AHPRA and the National Boards. Both reports are available on [our microsite](#).

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](#).

Health workforce dataset released

AHPRA in conjunction with the National Boards is responsible for the national registration process for 14 health professions. A subset of data from this annual registration process, together with data from a workforce survey that is voluntarily completed at the time of registration, forms the National Health Workforce Dataset (NHWDS).

The NHWDS includes demographic and professional practise information for registered health professionals and is de-identified before it can be made publically available.

The NHWDS Allied Health 2015 data has recently been released as a series of fact sheets on each allied health profession, and on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners across all allied health professions - the *NHWDS Allied Health Fact Sheets 2015*. They were published on a new look website – the [Health Workforce Data website](#) – by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The fact sheets present information specific to each profession, such as information relating to scope of practice, specialties and endorsements where applicable.

Aggregate data is also accessible via the [Health Workforce Data Online Data Tool \(ODT\)](#).

The data include is generated through Workforce Surveys, which are provided by AHPRA on behalf of the Department of Health to all health professionals as part of their yearly re-registration. Each survey is slightly different and is tailored to obtain data specific to that profession.

You can find the fact sheet on the Chinese medicine profession [here](#)

National awareness campaign

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway.

Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner.

The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

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.

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 or [contact AHPRA](#), send an [online enquiry form](#) or call on 1300 419 495.

Professor Charlie C Xue

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

6 March 2017

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.*