

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

April 2017 meeting

The 64th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 April 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 Board's work.

Upcoming forum invitation for Chinese Medicine practitioners, students and stakeholders

The Board is inviting Chinese Medicine practitioners, students and stakeholders to attend information forums being held across Australia later this year.

Dates and times have been confirmed (as below) and further details will be provided closer to the time. The Board would ask anyone who is interested in attending should to please put these in their diary now.

Time:	17.30 to 19.00	
Dates:	Melbourne	Monday 24 July
	Sydney	Monday 21 August
	Brisbane	Monday 25 September
	Adelaide	Monday 11 December

Update on the review of the code of conduct

The Code of conduct for Chinese Medicine is also used by 10 other National Boards (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chiropractic, Dental, Medical Radiation Practice, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Osteopathy, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy and Podiatry) with some minor profession-specific changes for some Boards.

The Code is a regulatory document that provides an overarching guide to support and inform good practice and to help practitioners, Boards, employers, healthcare users and other stakeholders to understand what good practice involves. It seeks to help and support practitioners to deliver safe and effective health services within an ethical framework.

As the Code was last published in March 2014 the Board has started a scheduled review that will draw on best available research and data and involve additional stakeholder consultation and engagement. The Board is working with other National Boards which use the Code on the review.

The review is still at an early research phase. However, the Board is already considering how it can maximise opportunities for input when the consultation stage of the review starts. In addition to public consultation the Board intends use, its website and other social media to inform the profession of how it can contribute to the review. The Board will highlight opportunities to be involved in the review in its communiqué and newsletters.

Application date extended again for practitioner member vacancy on the Board

Chinese medicine practitioners who are registered in more than one division and who are from Tasmania, or the Northern Territory, or the Australian Capital Territory are encouraged to apply to be appointed by

Health Ministers as a practitioner member on the Board. Late applications are being accepted for this current vacancy. For more information, please go to the *News* section of [Board's website](#).

If you would like to know what it is like to be a CMBA Board member, you can find out more on the [AHPRA website](#).

If you have any questions, please email: statutoryappointments@ahpra.gov.au.

Update on the Board's Australia-China Council Grant Project

A Board delegation departs for China on Sunday (7 May 2017) thanks to funding support from an Australia-China Council (ACC) Grant.

The grant is enabling the Board's first ever visit to China, the origin of Chinese medicine, which will take in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong (SAR – Special Administrative Region).

A selection of Board members will represent the Board on the trip with visits to a number of local hospitals and health authorities planned, including the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Shanghai University of TCM, the Shanghai Association of TCM Medical Doctors and the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong.

The Board will provide an update on the project after returning to Australia and further information is available in the Board's [news item](#).

Update: Review of Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice

Documents such as registration standards, codes and guidelines are subject to regular review with the review periods advised within the documents. The *Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice* are due for review.

The Board would like to update the Chinese medicine profession on reasons for its decision to delay a review of the *Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice*.

The Board met to discuss the review of the Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice in March. It concluded that:

- the current guidelines remain accurate and relevant, and
- there were considerations that weighed in favour of delaying.

The most important consideration is that the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), in collaboration with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, is now updating the 2010 Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care which are referenced in the Board's guidelines.

The Board agreed that it should wait for release of the new NHMRC guidelines. Any substantive changes to NHMRC guidance would result in the Board reviewing its guidelines in any case, regardless of a review falling due.

The Board is sharing this update because of its commitment to transparency with the profession and stakeholders.

Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy

The Board considered and endorsed a cross profession national strategy to help keep health service consumers safe from misleading advertising. Building on the significant work already done by the Board in this area, this strategy provides an approach to managing advertising complaints and taking appropriate action to achieve compliance. The [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy for the National Scheme](#) sends a loud and clear message to registered health practitioners that when advertising your health services you must comply with your professional and legal requirements to not mislead consumers in any way, or consequences may follow. The strategy and other advertising resource information is available on the [Advertising resources](#) section of the AHPRA website. More information will be published in coming months.

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 social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



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

5 May 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.*