

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

April 2018 meeting

The 74th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 24 April 2018 in Melbourne.

This communiqué provides details on the main 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.

Chinese translation of Registration Standards

The Board has published [position statement](#) on translating publications. The Board has an English Language Standard. Under transitional arrangements that applied only to applications for registration received up to 30 June 2015, some registered practitioners who were unable to meet the standard have English language conditions of registration. This allowed those practitioners to register and engage in clinical practice involving direct patient contact, subject to meeting these conditions which ensure effective communication with patients and emergency services.

It is expected that registered Chinese medicine practitioners will make suitable arrangements to ensure their understanding of all documents issued by the Board. From time to time, however, the Board will consider the need to translate some publications into other languages to facilitate understanding and compliance. To ensure consistency, the Board applies the following principles to facilitate timely and good decision making on this issue.

National Board position: the agreed principles

- Whether the document relates to a significant public safety issue
- The primacy/relevance of the document to the issue
- The existence of notifications/breaches related to the issue
- Cost-effectiveness of providing in-language publications, i.e. potential for achieving improved compliance and minimisation of future breaches

The Board has now decided to translate the following mandatory Standards, which will be published and announced in the near future:

- Continuing Professional Development
- Criminal History
- English Language
- Professional Indemnity Insurance
- Recency of practice

Consultation paper on the draft guideline for informing a National Board about where you practise

AHPRA and the National Boards have published a consultation paper on the draft guideline for informing a National Board about where practitioners practise.

Public consultation has started and will close on **25 May 2018**.

In September 2017, the Queensland Parliament passed the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017*. The Bill contained a set of amendments to the National Law, except Western Australia. Corresponding legislation has also been passed in Western Australia.

These amendments include changes to the information a registered health practitioner is required to provide about their practice arrangements when requested by the National Board (referred to as 'practice information'). The draft guideline has been developed to help registered health practitioners to provide practice information in a way that meets their obligation under the National Law.

The consultation paper is available under [Current consultations](#) on the Board's website, and the Board invites feedback from practitioners, stakeholders and the community. Submissions to this consultation may be published on the AHPRA website. More about this is included with information on the consultation paper.

Please provide any written submissions by email, marked, 'Draft guidelines: Informing a National Board about where you practise' to nationallawamendments@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on 25 May 2018. Submissions by post should be addressed to the Executive Officer, NRAS Review, AHPRA, GPO Box 9958, Melbourne VIC 3001.

Public consultation on review of accreditation arrangements – assignment of accreditation functions

National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are consulting on future accreditation arrangements from mid-2019, when the current term of assignment of accreditation functions ends.

Public consultation has started and will close at **12pm on Monday 14 May 2018**.

The National Law sets out the accreditation functions in the National Scheme; these include developing accreditation standards, accrediting programs of study against approved accreditation standards and assessing overseas-qualified practitioners.

It is each National Board's decision as to whether the accreditation functions for the profession it regulates will be carried out by an external accreditation body or a committee established by the Board. If the National Board decides on an external organisation, AHPRA enters into a contract with them which specifies the scope of accreditation functions and sets out associated reporting requirements and funding arrangements. If the National Board decides on a committee, these matters are specified in terms of reference.

National Boards will take feedback into account when making decisions about the assignment of accreditation functions from mid-2019. Feedback will also be considered in the next phase of the review, which will involve establishing new agreements with external accreditation authorities and terms of reference for accreditation committees.

The consultation paper is available under [Consultations](#), on the AHPRA website, along with information about the publishing of submissions to the consultation. The National Boards and AHPRA invite feedback from practitioners, stakeholders and the community.

You can provide feedback using **one** of the following options:

- Complete the [survey](#) by **12pm on 14 May 2018** OR
- Email a submission marked 'Scheduled review of accreditation assignments' to accreditationreview@ahpra.gov.au by **12pm on 14 May 2018**.

Vexing not vexatious: Report finds more risk in not reporting

New independent research commissioned by AHPRA takes a first international look at vexatious complaints, finding there is more risk from people not reporting concerns than from making dubious complaints.

It also found that while being on the receiving end of a complaint is tough – the complaint is much more likely to be vexing than vexatious.

The report will be used to inform best practice for reducing, identifying, and managing vexatious complaints and helps to identify opportunities to work with others to help reduce their frequency and adverse consequences.

For further information read the research summary report [Reducing, identifying and managing vexatious complaints on the AHPRA website](#).

Read about progress on the first ever National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy

The health strategy group charged with developing the National Scheme's first ever Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy has held its first meeting for 2018 and will publish its latest communiqué soon.

AHPRA, the 15 National Boards responsible for regulating the health professions, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy with the vision of: 'Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.'

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting, and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, are co-Chairs of the health strategy group. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group publish communiqués of its work. These are available on the [Advisory group page](#) of the AHPRA website.

This work is happening in conjunction with the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA.

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group is scheduled for July 2018.

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 [home page](#) 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 can'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.

Dr David Graham

**Acting Chair
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia**

24 April 2018

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.*