

## Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

### May 2019 meeting

The 85<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 21 May 2019 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.

### Meeting with Chinese Medicine Associations on 10 May 2019

In May 2019, the Board met with representatives from the six national professional associations for Chinese medicine including:

- Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA)
- Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Society of Australia Ltd (CMASA)
- Chinese Medicine Industry Council (CMIC)
- Federation of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Societies of Australia (FCMA)
- Australian Natural Therapists Association (ANTA), and
- Australian Traditional Medicine Society (ATMS).

The meeting provided a platform for information sharing and lively discussion about issues that affect Chinese medicine practitioners.

Important topics included an update on the work of the Board, and separately by the associations, exploring the prospect of Chinese medicine practitioners' endorsement to use certain scheduled herbs. We also discussed information about a pneumothorax education package developed by the Chinese Medicine Council of NSW which will soon be available to practitioners.

All parties agreed that the meeting was a success and will continue to meet at least annually. A joint communiqué will be published on the Board's website soon.

### National Scheme news

#### Company fined \$30,600 for unlawful advertising

Practitioners are reminded to be truthful in advertising their services after a Sydney company was convicted of 10 charges and fined \$30,600 for unlawful advertising.

The Running Clinic (Australia) Pty Ltd (formerly trading as the Heel Clinic), was convicted and fined for advertising offences under the National Law. It was fined \$30,600 and ordered to pay Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency's (AHPRA) costs of \$8,000.

AHPRA filed 10 charges against the company. It alleged that advertising claims on The Running Clinic's websites and Facebook account contained false, misleading and deceptive claims about podiatry services that were likely to create an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment.

AHPRA first raised the unlawful advertising with the company in 2015 and, while minor changes were made, it failed to significantly rectify the issues.

AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher welcomed the court outcome.

‘Consumers have a right to expect that all registered health practitioners are truthful when advertising their services. This court outcome sends a clear message to anyone advertising a regulated health service that AHPRA will act if they break the law.’

Information about your advertising obligations are available on [the Board’s](#) website.

### 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](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.

### Distinguished Professor Charlie C. Xue

**Chair  
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia**

21 May April 2019

*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 (the National Law), as in force in each state and territory, and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National 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.*