

## Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

### June 2019 meeting

The 86<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 25 June 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.

#### **Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice**

The Board decided to adopt the *Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare (NHMRC 2010)* (NHMRC guidelines) to inform registered acupuncturists about infection prevention and control and to also publish complementary guidelines that set out specific requirements about acupuncture practice not covered in the NHMRC Guidelines.

The Board's [Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice](#) (CMBA guidelines) were published in May 2013 and a Quick Reference Guide (also translated into Chinese) was provided in December 2013. The Board decided to delay the scheduled review of its guidelines when it became aware of the NHMRC guidelines review and decided it would wait for release of the new NHMRC guidelines.

The NHMRC has now published its revised [guidelines](#) and the Board will commence a review of the CMBA Guidelines, which will go through the normal consultative processes in due course.

#### **Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee**

The Board called for applications for appointment to the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee and has now reappointed the following four members to the committee for a three-year term from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2022:

- Dr Meeuwis Boelen
- Dr Wei Hong (Angela) Yang
- Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski, and
- Mr David Schievenin

and appointed the following new member for the same three-year term:

- Ms Suzi Shu Yi Mansu.

Dr Boelen has been appointed as the Chair of the committee.

The Board expresses its gratitude for the valued contribution over many years, of outgoing member Dr Jian Sheng (Jerry) Zhang.

#### **National Scheme news**

##### **Fake practitioners face jail and hefty fines**

From 1 July 2019, the National Law became tougher on people who pretend to be a registered health practitioner. The penalty for anyone prosecuted by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

(AHPRA) under the National Law<sup>1</sup> for these offences now includes bigger fines and the prospect of prison time.

AHPRA has successfully prosecuted multiple cases where people were falsely claiming to be registered practitioners when they were not.

Under the National Law, anyone who calls themselves any of the 'protected titles', such as 'Chinese medicine practitioner', 'medical practitioner' or 'psychologist', must be registered with the corresponding National Board.

The amendments mean that offenders will be faced with the possibility of a maximum term of three years imprisonment per offence. They also face an increase in the maximum fines from \$30,000 to \$60,000 per offence for an individual and from \$60,000 to \$120,000 per offence for a corporate entity.

It is an offence to use one of the protected titles, and it is also an offence to knowingly or recklessly claim to be a registered practitioner when you're not or use symbols or language that may lead a reasonable person to believe that an individual is a registered health practitioner or is qualified to practise in a health profession. These offences are known as 'holding out.'

Read the full media release on the [AHPRA website](#).

### **New video gives a practitioner's experience of a notification**

AHPRA and the Board know that making or being the subject of a notification can be confusing and stressful. We are working to support health consumers and practitioners by improving the way we communicate about notifications.

As part of this work, AHPRA and National Boards released the [latest video](#) in our '[Let's talk about it](#)' series. It tells one practitioner's experience of the process, aiming to help other practitioners who have a notification made about them.

AHPRA has gathered feedback from notifiers and practitioners on their experience of the notifications process. After over 80 interviews and more than 5,000 survey responses, a small number of consistent themes have emerged. These themes are informing the content of our video series.

This latest video, *A notification was made about me: A practitioner's experience*, is a powerful first-hand account of a practitioner's experience engaging with AHPRA and a National Board. It contains a clear message for other health practitioners about seeking support early in the notification process. Registered health practitioners and their support networks will be encouraged to use this new resource when they are involved in the notifications process.

Chinese medicine practitioners can view the video on the [AHPRA website](#), where practitioners can find additional information on understanding the notifications experience, and on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo channels](#).

Read the full media release on the [AHPRA 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).



## 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.

## Dr David Graham

### Deputy Chair Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

25 June 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.*