

Update from the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee

September 2019

Committee activities in 2019

The Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee (the Committee) exercises a number of accreditation functions under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Accreditation Committee publishes updates on the Board's [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Committee activities

The 41st meeting of the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee was held on the 11 July 2019, via teleconference.

To date, the Committee has accredited 10 Chinese medicine programs across six Education Providers. Graduates from these accredited programs are qualified to register as a Chinese medicine practitioner, and have the skills, knowledge and professional attributes to competently practise in the Chinese medicine profession.

The list of accredited programs is available on the Committee's [accredited programs](#) page of the Board's website.

A key activity for the Committee in 2019 is monitoring these accredited programs to ensure they continue to meet the Committee's standards, including through evaluation of Education Providers' responses to conditions imposed on their accreditation and routine annual monitoring.

The Committee met in March and July 2019 and considered responses from a number of Education Providers about their accredited programs. The Committee's last meeting of 2019 will be in November, and 2020 meeting dates are currently being finalised.

Committee membership

In March 2019 the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia called for applications for appointment to the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee, and recently appointed the following members to the Committee for a three-year term, commencing from 1 September 2019, through to 31 August 2022:

- Dr Meeuwis Boelen
Chair and educationalist member
- Mrs Suzi (Shu Yi) Mansu
Practitioner member with academic experience
- Mr David Schievenin
Practitioner member with academic experience
- Dr Wei Hong (Angela) Yang
Practitioner member with academic experience
- Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski
Educationalist member

Suzi Mansu is the newest appointment to the Committee and joins the four returning members from the previous term. The Committee extends a warm welcome to Suzi and looks forward to her contributions this term.

The Committee would also like to express its gratitude to outgoing member Dr Jian Sheng (Jerry) Zhang, whose valued and highly regarded contributions since 2012 have been invaluable. The Committee wishes Jerry all the best for his future endeavours.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) provides the secretariat functions for the Accreditation Committee via its Program Accreditation Team.

Chinese medicine accreditation standards

The Accreditation Committee is responsible for developing and recommending accreditation standards to the Board for approval, and the Board is responsible for approving and publishing the accreditation standards against which education providers and their implementation of Chinese medicine programs of study (programs) are assessed when applying for accreditation under the National Law.

In late 2017, the Committee commenced a review of its accreditation standards for Chinese medicine. The project adopted a multi-profession approach, which included the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice and medical radiation practice professions who were also due to review their accreditation standards.

The commencement of the project began with the appointed AHPRA project team undertaking a series of education provider forums across Australia to promote early stakeholder input into the review.

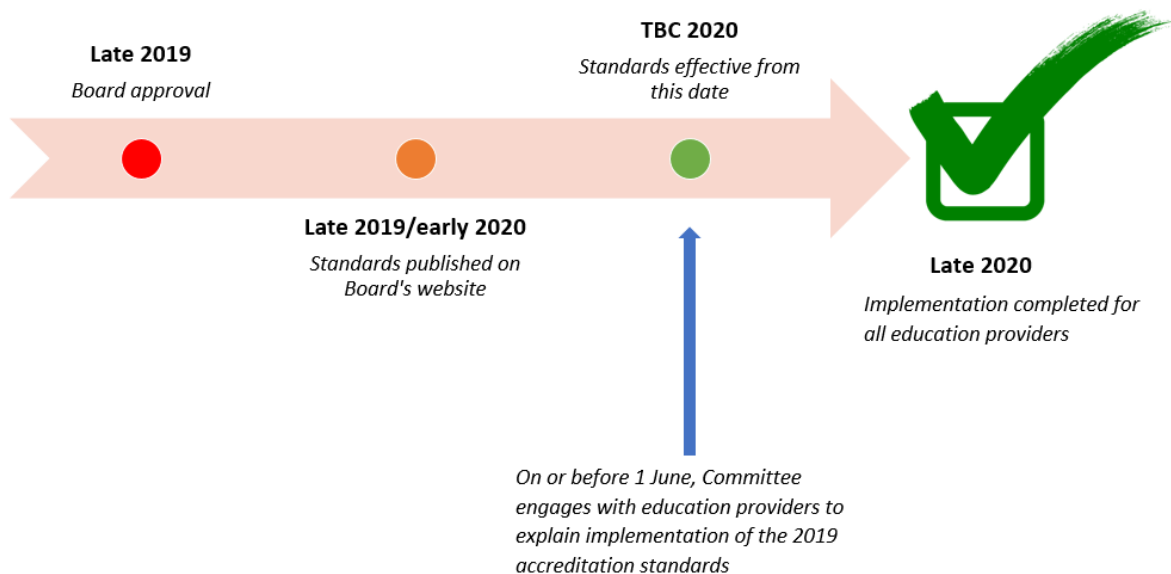
Following extensive periods of preliminary and public consultations with the education sector, other health professions and federal, state and territory governments, the Committee submitted the revised standards to the Board. The Chinese Medicine Board (the Board) will publish the revised standards alongside the Professional Capabilities.

The 2019 accreditation standards will replace the current (2013 accreditation standards and continue to provide for the protection of the public by ensuring that only graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise in a competent and ethical manner qualify for registration in the profession.

Accreditation standards help to ensure that education providers give students the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to competently practise in the Chinese Medicine profession. The Board is expected to approve the 2019 accreditation standards and the revised professional capabilities for registered Chinese medicine practitioners in late 2019.

2019 Accreditation standards

The implementation journey



Chinese medicine professional capabilities

Coinciding with the review of the 2013 accreditation standards, and in partnership with the Board, the Committee is currently revising its *professional capabilities for registered Chinese Medicine practitioners* (draft revised professional capabilities).

Professional capabilities for Chinese medicine (2013 professional capabilities) were first published in December 2013 as Field 6 of the *Accreditation standards: Chinese medicine* (2013 accreditation standards). As with the 2013 professional capabilities, the draft revised professional capabilities will apply to education providers and their programs of study to assure those programs provide graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes needed to safely and competently practice Chinese medicine in Australia. The draft revised professional capabilities will form part of the 2019 accreditation standards.

The public consultation for the draft revised professional capabilities recently closed. The Committee is currently considering the feedback gathered and making any necessary amendments, before submitting the draft revised professional capabilities to the Board for approval.

It is anticipated for the draft proposed professional capabilities will be published in early 2020 alongside the 2019 accreditation standards. Both the revised professional capabilities and the 2019 accreditation standards will take effect from the same date.

Accreditation process

The [2013 accreditation process](#) for Chinese medicine (the accreditation process) describes the process of which the Committee will use to assess, accredit and monitor Chinese medicine education providers and programs against the standards for Chinese medicine.

To align with the joint review of the 2013 accreditation standards for Chinese Medicine, and in order to support the implementation of the revised 2019 accreditation standards, a routine review of the current accreditation process is underway.

As with the joint review of the accreditation standards, this review is multi-profession and includes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Health Practice, Medical Radiation Practice, Paramedicine and Podiatry Accreditation Committees. By adopting a multi-profession approach to the development of new and/or revised accreditation processes, there is an opportunity for the Committees to improve communication, increase transparency, achieve efficiencies and identify areas where further support for education

Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee

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providers is needed. The project is focused on a review of the current processes for each profession to identify common themes and profession-specific requirements.

The outcome will be an updated and user-friendly accreditation process that aligns with the revised 2019 accreditation standards for Chinese Medicine.

The Committee will be undertaking a targeted consultation with key stakeholders in the second half of 2019 to provide feedback on the draft revised accreditation process.

Contact information

For any queries related to Chinese Medicine program accreditation, please contact the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation Team via email at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on Chinese medicine accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation webpage](#). Further information will be added to the website as the Committee's accreditation functions progress.

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