

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

August 2019 meeting

The 88th meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 20 August 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.

World Health Organisation meeting on strengthening regulatory systems for traditional and complementary medicine practitioners in the Western Pacific region

On 9-10 September 2019, the Board co-hosted with AHPRA's World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Health Workforce Regulation a WHO meeting on strengthening regulatory systems for traditional and complementary medicine practitioners in the Western Pacific region. The meeting was attended by delegates from 13 countries.

National Scheme news

New practitioner experience video launched

Keep perspective; and seek help. That's the message in the [latest video](#) released by AHPRA and National Boards as part of the ['Let's talk about it'](#) series – Putting it in perspective: A practitioner's notifications experience.

The video is the second practitioner experience video published this year by AHPRA and National Boards and provides a health practitioner's first-hand account of the notification process.

AHPRA CEO Mr Martin Fletcher said the video series aims to share practitioners' experiences, recognising what are common reactions, while proactively encouraging them to focus on likely outcomes and seek support.

'Many practitioners have told us that they would have benefited greatly from hearing the voice of others who had gone through this experience — and come out the other side. They have also told us that when they are the subject of a notification, they immediately think they will lose their registration and their livelihood – that it's a catastrophe.'

'We understand that people may feel this way. However, our data show a different story. While we have a clear focus on patient safety, many notifications end without the need for regulatory action and are often closed following initial assessment, without the need for an extended investigation.' Mr Fletcher said.

In the video, a surgeon describes his feelings of guilt and anxiety after a poor patient outcome and the notification that followed. As time went on, his worries increased, and he found it difficult to maintain a realistic perspective about what was likely to occur. He reflects on the value of speaking with family and friends, as well as the ongoing support of his GP and a psychologist.

Read the full [media release](#).

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.

Distinguished Professor Charlie C. Xue

Chair Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

20 August 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.*