

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

February 2019 meeting

The 82nd meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 1 March 2019 in Melbourne. The Board did not hold a meeting in January.

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 Medicine Reference Group

Appointees for the four practitioner member positions for the Chinese Medicine Reference Group have been announced and the Board congratulates:

- Ms Dina Tsiopelas (reappointed)
- Dr Kevin Ryan (reappointed)
- Ms Honglin (Linda) Yang and,
- Mr Shengxi (George) Zhang

The Board sincerely thanks outgoing members Dr Carolyn Ee and Ms Geraldine Robinson.

The Board is now calling for applications from registered Chinese Medicine practitioner for appointment to the Chinese Medicine Reference Group (the Reference Group) to fill a position earmarked for a new graduate.

To be eligible for appointment, applicants must have completed their qualification within the last two years. This position is not expected to be representative of all new graduates as it would require wide-reaching communication and consultation with the group. Rather, the Board is seeking the perspective of a recently graduated Chinese medicine practitioner to add value to the group discussions.

The purpose of the Reference Group is to engage stakeholders in order to achieve a common understanding of the National Scheme and to assist the Board in progressing its core business. The Reference Group consists of both health practitioners and representatives of organisations who provide collective advice to the Board.

To view the vacancy and submit an application, please visit the [Committee member recruitment page](#) on the AHPRA website.

Call for applications

There is a vacancy for a community member from any state or territory arising on the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

All appointments are made by the Ministerial Council for up to three years, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

The National Scheme has a commitment to increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' leadership and voices. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply, as are people from rural or regional areas in Australia.

More information about the roles, eligibility requirements and the application process can be found in the [information guide and application form](#).

Quarterly registration data released

The National Board has released its quarterly registration data.

[View quarterly registration data.](#)

Newsletter from the National Board

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia has released its latest newsletter.

Read more on our [Newsletters](#) page.

Hobart forum for practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia held a forum for practitioners, students and stakeholders of Chinese medicine at the AHPRA Hobart office on Friday 1 February 2019. Feedback was positive that the session was useful to those in attendance.

'Let's talk about it' videos launched to support patients and practitioners when a concern is raised

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has launched a series of new videos to support the public and registered health practitioners as they go through the notification process.

The video series, called 'Let's talk about it', explains what happens when concerns are raised with the regulator and provides easy to follow information about the notifications process and addresses common questions from the public and practitioners.

Read the full [media release](#).

New resource focuses on titles in health advertising

A new resource to help practitioners understand their legal obligations when using titles in health advertising is now available.

The titles tool has been developed to help registered health practitioners understand how titles can be used in advertising. It also outlines some of the common pitfalls that can result in titles being considered misleading under the National Law.

Misuse of a protected title, specialist title or endorsements is an offence under sections 113-119 of the National Law may constitute behaviour for which health, conduct or performance action may be taken against a registered health practitioner under Part 8 of the National Law.

However, advertisers should also be aware that while use of some titles may not necessarily breach title protections under sections 113-119, they may be considered false, misleading or deceptive under the advertising provisions in the National Law (section 133).

The [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy](#) for the National Scheme was launched in April 2017. Under the strategy AHPRA and National Boards have developed several resources to help practitioners and advertisers, including [testimonial](#) and [self-assessment](#) tools, a [summary of advertising obligations](#), [frequently asked questions](#), [tips on words to be wary about](#), and [examples of compliant and non-compliant advertising](#).

The [titles tool](#) is available in the *Advertising resources* section on the AHPRA website.

National Boards and AHPRA host research summit

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) 2019 Research Summit took place on 27 February 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The Summit centred on asking how research can be harnessed to strengthen regulation and enhance patient safety to contribute to improved health outcomes.

Led by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the National Boards, the all-day Research Summit hosted 17 speakers and drew more than 300 participants from National and

State/Territory Board and Committee members, AHPRA staff, co-regulatory bodies, representatives from accreditation authorities and key partners.

With the theme *Optimising research for regulatory effectiveness*, the Research Summit explored the National Scheme's evolving approaches to risk assessment, lessons from research into notifications, and future opportunities to utilise smart data. At the heart of discussions was asking how we can use data and research to improve regulatory processes and ultimately contribute to safer care for patients.

The stirring keynote address by Professor Zubin Austin from the University of Toronto, highlighted that competency assessment has emerged as a dominant issue for regulators, educators and employers worldwide; Professor Austin called for more attention on notions of teamwork, emotional intelligence, and genuine practitioner engagement as important concepts in defining and evaluating competency.

Read more in the [media release](#) about the summit.

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

1 March 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.*