

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

December 2019 meeting

The 92nd meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 17 December 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.

New community board member

The Chair formally welcomed Ms Stephanie Campbell as the new community member appointed from 22 November 2019. Stephanie Campbell holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with Honours degree from Macquarie University. In 2007, she was admitted to practice law in the NSW Supreme Court and currently holds an unrestricted NSW legal practising certificate.

Stephanie has worked within the public and private sectors and with her practical and academic experience of a legal, governance and policy nature. She is committed to developing and implementing best practice standards and procedures which promote transparency, accountability and good decision making.

Stephanie has lived and worked in the Northern Territory and has a keen interest in rural and regional health care. She is now based in Newcastle, NSW. She previously held two Ministerial appointments on the Central Australian Human Research and Ethics Committee and the Northern Territory Board of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

Stephanie has a sound understanding of the law, natural justice and ethics. She is familiar with the health practitioner regulation and is committed to protecting the public interest and upholding professional accountability.

Health practitioners encouraged to seek advice about their own health

Mandatory notifications are an important part of public safety. We need to know when patients may be at substantial risk of harm from a registered health practitioner. We also want to make sure that practitioners with health issues feel safe to seek treatment without fear of an unnecessary mandatory notification being made about them. A practitioner with a health issues, on its own, does not require a mandatory notification.

There are four concerns that may trigger a mandatory notification, depending on the risk of harm to the public:

- impairment
- intoxication while practising
- significant departure from accepted professional standards, and
- sexual misconduct.

[New resources](#) have been published to explain mandatory notifications and when they do and do not need to be made, in preparation for new requirements that take effect in early 2020. Produced by Ahpra and the National Boards regulating Australia's health practitioners. The resources aim to support practitioners to understand changes to the law about mandatory notification requirements which were made by Health Ministers.

New regulatory examination in development

The Board is developing its new regulatory examination which will replace the interim examination arrangement that has been in place since 2015.

The regulatory examination is for any person who is qualified from a non-Board approved program of study. This applies to programs both in Australia or overseas.

The revised examination will involve written and clinical assessments. Ensuring the validity and reliability of assessment results has been a focus of the examination design and development. Since late 2019, the Board and Ahpra have partnered with appropriate experts to finalise the examinations for registration as an acupuncturist and/or Chinese herbal medicine practitioner in preparation for implementation in April 2020. Finalising the examination for registration as a Chinese herbal dispenser will follow later in 2020.

The Board is grateful to its interim arrangement partners, Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the University of Technology Sydney.

New page on Board website promotes advertising resources

A page dedicated to advertising resources for registered health practitioners is now available on the Board's website.

Since the launch of the [Advertising compliance and enforcement strategy](#) for the National Scheme in April 2017, several helpful tools and examples of non-compliant advertising have been published in the [Advertising resources](#) section of the Ahpra website.

To help visitors to the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia website quickly locate information for practitioners about advertising, including the [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#), we have published a new page – [Advertising a regulated health service](#) – that links directly to all advertising resources relevant to Chinese medicine practitioners.

We encourage you to read the advertising resources to ensure you are meeting your legal and professional obligations when advertising a regulated health service.

Social media guide for registered health practitioners

A new guide to help registered health practitioners understand and meet their obligations when using social media has been published on the [Board's website](#) and in the Advertising resources section of [Ahpra's website](#).

The guide reminds practitioners that when interacting online, they should maintain professional standards and be aware of the implications of their actions, just as when they interact in person.

The guide does not stop practitioners from engaging online or via social media; instead, it encourages practitioners to act ethically and professionally in any setting. To help practitioners meet their obligations, the guide also outlines some common pitfalls practitioners may encounter when using social media.

Updated logos for Ahpra and National Boards

Ahpra and the National Boards have updated their logos. Information about the new Chinese Medicine Board and Ahpra logos can be found 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.

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**

17 December 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.*