

August 2020 Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee meeting

The Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee (the Committee) undertakes accreditation functions for Chinese medicine in the national scheme regulating health practitioners.

The communique provides information about the Committee's recent activities. The Committee publishes this communique on the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Committee's response to COVID-19

The Committee and Ahpra continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. The Committee has released statements outlining its plans for its accreditation activities for the remainder of 2020, on the '[News and updates](#)' accreditation webpage. The Committee is currently undertaking special COVID-19 monitoring of all its accredited and approved programs.

Accreditation Committee meetings

The 44th meeting of the Committee was held on 6 August 2020 via videoconference. The Committee has one remaining meeting scheduled in 2020.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's August 2020 meeting are outlined more thoroughly below.

Accreditation standards for Chinese medicine – transition from the 2013 to 2019 accreditation standards

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) confirmed approval of the [2019 Chinese medicine accreditation standards](#) (2019 accreditation standards) and the revised [professional capabilities for Chinese medicine practitioners](#) at its December 2019 meeting, with an effective date of 1 June 2020.

The Committee is responsible for implementing the approved 2019 accreditation standards through monitoring and assessment of currently accredited programs and the education providers that offer those programs.

In May 2020, the Committee [revised its accreditation activities](#) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Education providers were advised about the revised accreditation activities through correspondence sent in June 2020.

As a result of continued impacts on education providers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee has evaluated the requirements for education providers to transition to accreditation and monitoring against the 2019 accreditation standards. In August 2020, the Committee agreed to its revised implementation schedule for education providers to transition to the 2019 accreditation standards. The Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, will communicate transition requirements to each education provider later this year.

2019 accreditation standards for Chinese medicine - cultural safety and the safe and effective use of medicines

At its August 2020 meeting, the Committee considered two recent developments relevant to accreditation for Chinese medicine:

- a) the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme's (the National Scheme) definition of cultural safety, which was confirmed and released in February 2020, through the [National Scheme's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#), and
- b) the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum)'s [Framework for accreditation requirements for the safe and effective use of medicines](#) which is due to be published later in 2020.

The Committee will continue to discuss these topics, and consider how these important areas might be reflected in the 2019 accreditation standards for Chinese medicine, in line with the recently published revised [procedures for the development of accreditation standards](#).

Monitoring approved programs of study

Under section 50 of the National Law, the Committee has a statutory responsibility to monitor approved programs of study and the education providers offering them, to ensure the Committee continues to be satisfied the program and provider meet the approved accreditation standards.

As forecast in its [11 May 2020 statement](#), the Committee is now carrying out special COVID-19 monitoring of all accredited and approved Chinese medicine programs of study.

In August 2020, the Committee agreed on its framework to collect information from education providers about changes impacting the graduating cohort for late 2020 to mid-2021, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Program Accreditation Team has distributed the COVID-19 reporting template to education providers for completion by early October 2020. The Committee will consider all education provider COVID-19 reports in October and November 2020.

Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, continues to engage with education providers via the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#); through correspondence via email and phone contact, and communiques.

Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs (revised accreditation process)

The Committee has recently concluded a project to review its accreditation process. The revised accreditation process, the [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#) (guidelines) were recently published, and were developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Medical Radiation Practice, Paramedicine and Podiatry Accreditation Committees.

Contact information

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

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Ahpra and the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee work in partnership to accredit education and training programs for Chinese medicine.