

Communiqué

April 2020

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

Committee's response to COVID-19

The Committee and Ahpra are closely monitoring the COVID-19 emergency and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. The Committee has released a statement on the '[News and updates](#)' accreditation webpage of the Board's website. This will be updated if the Committee's approach to the situation needs to change.

Subsequent to the Committee's March 2020 meeting, the COVID-19 pandemic escalated. In light of this, the Committee is currently reviewing its workplan and assessment and monitoring activities for the remainder of 2020. It will be able to communicate more with respect to these decisions in due course.

Accreditation Committee meetings

The 43rd meeting of the Committee was held on 26 March 2020 via videoconference.

The Committee has scheduled two further meetings in 2020.

The Committee plans to reconvene in August 2020 and will continue to meet via videoconference until the COVID-19 pandemic has stabilised.

Accreditation Committee activities

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

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

The Committee is responsible for developing, reviewing and applying the accreditation standards against which education providers' implementation of their Chinese medicine programs of study are assessed when applying for accreditation under the National Law. The Board is responsible for approving those accreditation standards.

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

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.

Most education providers currently accredited against the 2013 accreditation standards will be required to transition to accreditation against the 2019 accreditation standards. The Committee is currently reviewing its planned approach to implementation of the 2019 accreditation standards, including timeframes for full assessments of accredited programs against the 2019 accreditation standards.

Monitoring approved programs of study, including Routine annual monitoring (2020)

The Committee will continue to monitor accredited Chinese medicine programs of study throughout 2020, however it is currently reviewing its approach to all monitoring activities, including routine annual monitoring, in 2020. It will be able to communicate to education providers its ongoing plans for monitoring in 2020, in the coming weeks.

Stakeholder engagement

In December 2019, the Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice, Paramedicine and Podiatry Accreditation Committees (the five Committees), commenced a project to develop a common accreditation stakeholder engagement framework (the framework). The framework aims to support the five Committees to plan and engage strategically with stakeholders at key points during accreditation projects.

The Chairs of the five Accreditation Committees considered a first draft of the framework at their meeting in February 2020. The project will continue throughout 2020.

The Committee (via the Program Accreditation Team) will continue to engage closely with education providers and key stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

New arrangements for reporting to the Board and AHPRA

In November 2019, Ahpra's Agency Management Committee (AManC) finalised the initial reporting model for the current accreditation agreements and terms of reference, due dates for reports during the period of the current agreements and terms of reference, and initial report templates. The Committee has submitted its first report against the new requirements. The reporting obligations are outlined in Attachment F and Attachment G (Key Performance Indicators) of the Committee's [Terms of Reference](#).

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.

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