

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Meeting with professional associations in September 2025

The fifth annual meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) with the Chinese medicine professional associations was held following a Board meeting on 22 September 2025.

Regular information exchange with professional associations is an essential component of the Board's communication and engagement strategy. Such meetings are expected to further strengthen constructive relationships with key stakeholders to assist the Board in delivering its regulatory outcomes in an engaging, effective and efficient manner. In addition, such meetings also provide an opportunity to share information and explore matters of mutual interest and respond respectfully, collaboratively and proactively.

In attendance were:

Professional association representatives
(in alphabetical order of the organisations)

Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA)	Ms Lily Feng Mr Rodd Sanchez
Australian Traditional Medicine Society (ATMS)	Ms Annie Gibbons Ms Donna Eddy
Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Society of Australia Ltd (CMASA)	Dr Guoqing Wei Dr Ying Chen
Chinese Medicine Industry Council (CMIC)	Dr Max Ma
Federation of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Societies of Australia (FCMA)	Dr Grace Tham

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

Adjunct Professor Danforn Lim, Chair and practitioner member
Mr Luke Hubbard, practitioner member
Dr Johannah Planche, practitioner member
Ms Bing Tian, practitioner member
Mr Simon Want, practitioner member

Apologies

Ms Sophy Athan, Deputy Chair and community member
Ms Dina Tsiopelas, practitioner member
Ms Stephanie Campbell, community member
Mr Craig Bennett AM, community member

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra)

Ms Yonna Cowan (Chinese medicine)
Ms Khalidah Mansour, Board Support, Ahpra
Ms Laura Collier, Senior Policy and Project Officer (Chinese medicine)
Mr Jonathan Longley, Senior Policy and Project Officer (Chinese medicine)



1 Welcome by the Chair

All members were welcomed to the meeting.

1.1 Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

The Executive Officer acknowledged the traditional custodians of the country, the people and the water from where participants attended the meeting and paid respects to Elders past and present.

2 Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

The following information was presented, which included matters referred for discussion by professional associations:

2.1 Introduction to the Board and Ahpra team

The Chair introduced Board members, including new practitioner member Mr Simon Want, and the Ahpra Chinese medicine policy team.

2.2 Update on Board activities

The Board Chair provided a presentation that gave an update to professional association representatives on the recent, ongoing and future work of the Board:

- Registration numbers
- Registration renewal
 - The Board is producing tailored support for Chinese medicine practitioners using multifactor authentication to access the new Ahpra portal
- Engagement work
 - The recent advertising compliance webinar was well-received, with over 650 people attending.
 - The Board will also deliver its annual webinars to students (30 September) and practitioners (6 November).

- Guidelines on patient health records
 - Following the public consultation in 2024, the Board considered feedback and published revised guidelines on 1 July 2025.
 - The guidelines will be effective on 1 January 2026, and the Board will continue to ensure that practitioners are aware of the changed requirements.
- Professional capabilities for Chinese medicine practitioners
 - The professional capabilities are currently being reviewed by the Board.
- Practitioner support materials
 - The Board has developed an FAQ for Chinese medicine practitioners considering using pathology in their practice.
- Public information campaign
 - In May 2025, the Board published its public information campaign – a series of videos covering what Chinese medicine is, what to expect at appointments and what happens if something goes wrong.
 - The campaign, which aims to educate the public about Chinese medicine and improve community safety, has achieved a highly successful launch in terms of engagement.
- International engagement
 - The Board has continued to meet with regulatory bodies around the world.

2.3 Notifications case study

The RNC Chair presented a case study discussion on a recent notification, how the Ahpra responded and the outcomes for the practitioner.

3 Discussion (including matters raised by professional associations)

Representatives from the professional associations and the Board discussed a range of matters relevant to the Chinese medicine workforce and industry, including:

- Clarification of the respective roles of the professional associations and the Board, noting the associations' advocacy functions and the Board's public protection responsibilities.
- Potential opportunities for collaboration between the professional associations and the Board, consistent with the roles defined under the National Law.
- Recent developments following the publication of *the Independent Review of Complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme* (the Dawson Review).

4 Next meeting

To be advised.