



December 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 has recently concluded its 2020 special COVID-19 monitoring of all its accredited and approved programs.

Accreditation Committee meetings

The 45th meeting of the Committee was held on 3 December 2020 via videoconference, it was the Committee's last scheduled meeting for 2020.

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

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

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) approved 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.

At the December 2020 meeting the Committee discussed an updated approach to assessment and monitoring of Chinese medicine programs in 2021, including the implementation of a 'COVID-responsive' approach with a focus on the core regulatory purpose of ensuring each program continues to provide students with learning that ensures they achieve the professional capabilities for safe and competent practice in Australia prior to graduation. The Committee has communicated to each education provider their respective requirements for transitioning to accreditation against the 2019 accreditation standards, including tentative full accreditation assessment dates against the 2019 accreditation standards.

The Committee's 'COVID-19 responsive' assessment activities against the 2019 accreditation standards commence from 2021.

Monitoring approved programs of study

At the December 2020 meeting, the Committee considered monitoring responses from three education providers, and noted applications for accreditation assessment (against the 2019 accreditation standards) for two new education programs are scheduled to be received by the Committee in early 2021.

COVID-19 monitoring

The Committee recently concluded its 2020 special COVID-19 monitoring of all accredited and approved Chinese medicine programs of study. The Committee has considered all education provider COVID-19 reports and provided relevant advice to the Board. The Committee will continue its monitoring of approved programs on the downstream impacts of COVID-19 (the impacts on all current students). The Committee is designing its framework for routine annual monitoring in 2021, which will include a range of reporting requirements for education providers on the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on their programs and students.

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)

As noted in the Committee's August communique, the [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#) are now available. This is an important document for all education providers to familiarise themselves with ahead of upcoming assessments against the 2019 accreditation standards.

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.

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.

