

## Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

### February 2020 meeting

The 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 26 February 2020 in Melbourne.

The Board meeting was held on 26 February 2020 to coincide with the annual National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) combined meeting where entities in the scheme got together to discuss the focus for the next 12 months.

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.

#### Board planning day

The Board held its annual planning day in February 2020. The Board is careful to:

- focus on the big picture and the critical issues
- distinguish between strategy and operations/business-as-usual activities
- align its efforts with the National Scheme, particularly the focus on public protection

The Board is now deciding on, costing and developing its key regulatory initiatives for the next year.

#### Routine review of the Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice

The Board's Policy Planning and Communications Committee is progressing the scheduled review of the *Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice* (the Guidelines). Initial editing has been completed and the Board is now preparing for consultation.

#### Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice

The Board's Policy Planning and Communications Committee is progressing the scheduled review of the *Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice*.

The review methodology includes:

- a. a detailed mapping exercise to identify any changes in the 2019 Australian Guidelines (compared with the 2010 version) that might be relevant to the practice of acupuncture,
- b. analysis of relevant state and territory regulations governing skin penetration and infection control, clinical waste management and workplace health and safety, to determine what additional requirements might apply to registered practitioners, and
- c. preparation of a revised draft Guideline for preliminary and public consultation.

#### Policy directions issued by the COAG Health Council

The Board and Ahpra welcomed two new policy directions from the COAG Health Council which reinforce that Ahpra and National Boards are to prioritise public protection in the work of the National Scheme.

The two directions clearly state that public protection is paramount and require consultation with patient safety and health care consumer bodies on any new and revised registration standards, codes and guidelines, as well as other considerations.

#### Governance – Committee review

The Board conducts regular reviews of the structure of its committees, either annually or when there is a change of Board membership. Following the recent planning day, the Board decided to review its committee memberships at the February meeting in preparation for Board functioning in 2021 and beyond.

The membership of the Policy Planning and Communications Committee is:

- David Graham, Chair
- Rod Martin, Deputy Chair
- Christine Berle, member
- Liang Zhong Chen, member
- Glenys Savage, member

The membership of the Registration and Notifications Committee is:

- David Brereton, Chair
- Stephanie Campbell, Deputy Chair
- Diwen Lai, member
- Bing Tian, member
- Jaki Ryan, member
- Meikin Rees, member

Having non-Board members (Glenys Savage, Jaki Ryan and Meikin Rees) ensures external perspective and succession planning.

Appointment of Committee members is in accordance with Schedule 4, Clause 11 of the National Law.

### National Scheme update

#### **Mandatory notifications - health practitioners encouraged to seek advice about their own health**

Ahpra and the National Boards have published [new resources](#) to support practitioners to understand changes to the National Law about mandatory notifications requirements that came into effect on 1 March 2020.

The [resources](#) aim to encourage practitioners to seek the health care they need by removing fears that they'll be subject of an unnecessary mandatory notification and provide greater clarity to treating practitioners on when they need to make a mandatory notification.

The new resources are available on a hub on the [Ahpra website](#), including:

- revised Guidelines
- case studies
- detailed FAQs
- a myth busting document
- five videos, featuring registered practitioners and students
- social media posts, and
- graphics that can be shared.

Visit the Ahpra website to listen to the *Taking care* podcast episode '[A new look at mandatory notifications](#)', and read news items about the [amendments](#) and [revised guidelines](#).

### 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](http://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](http://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**

26 February 2020

*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.*