

Communiqué: Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Meeting with professional associations June 2024

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 25 June 2024.

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 the Board's 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 issues/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)

Australian Natural Therapists Association (ANTA)

Australian Traditional Medicine Society (ATMS)

Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Society of Australia Ltd (CMASA)

Chinese Medicine Industry Council (CMIC)

Federation of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Societies of Australia (FCMA)

Ms Waveny Holland

Mr Paul Stadhams

Mr David Liesegang

Mr Tino D'Angelo

Ms Annie Gibbons

Dr Guoqing Wei

Dr Ying Chen

Dr Max Ma

Hon. Prof. Tzi Chiang Lin

Dr Sherman Gu

Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

Adjunct Professor Danforn Lim, Chair and practitioner member

Ms Sophy Athan, Deputy Chair and community member

Mr Craig Bennett AM, community member (virtual attendance)

Ms Stephanie Campbell, community member

Ms Johannah Shergis, practitioner member

Ms Bing Tian, practitioner member

Ms Dina Tsiopelas, practitioner member

Apologies

Mr Luke Hubbard, practitioner member

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra)

Ms Kirsten Hibberd, Executive Officer (Chinese medicine)

Ms Lesley Havers, Board Support, Ahpra

Mr Jonathan Longley, Senior Policy and Project Officer (Chinese medicine) (virtual attendance)

Ms Nikola Balvin, National Manager, Research, Evaluation and Insights (virtual attendance)

Mr Rechu Divaker, Research and Evaluation Officer, Research, Evaluation and Insights (virtual attendance)

Mr Roger Garcia, National Manager, Registration (virtual attendance)

Mr Ian Walker, Manager, Program Accreditation (virtual attendance)

Mr Jason McHeyzer, National Director, Compliance (virtual attendance)

Mr Nicholas Ciuffetelli, Senior Regulatory Advisor, Compliance (virtual attendance)



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.

1.2 Introduction to the Board

The Deputy Chair introduced Board members, including new community member Mr Craig Bennett AM.

2 Presentations

The following information was presented by Ahpra staff, which included matters referred for discussion by Professional Associations:

2.1 Advertising requirements in the National Scheme

Members of the Ahpra Compliance team provided a presentation to attendees on the various advertising requirements that the National Law places on practitioners. Attendees were shown examples of the resources specific to Chinese medicine that are currently available on the Ahpra website and informed of the work that is currently underway to update them.

2.2 Workforce retention and attrition project (WRAP)

Attendees received a presentation on the Workforce Retention and Attrition Project (WRAP), which examined what drives health practitioners to stay or leave the health workforce. In June 2023, nine National Boards, including the Chinese Medicine Board, agreed to participate in the project. 1,366 respondents identified as Chinese Medicine practitioners (a 24% completion rate for CM). The study asked practitioners what motivates them to stay in their profession and the reasons they are leaving. Factors that predict whether a practitioner will stay or leave, such as work hours, years of experience and / or self-employment, were also examined. A paper detailing the findings has been submitted to a peer reviewed journal and is likely to be published in late 2024.

2.3 Chinese Medicine Board Regulatory Examinations

This presentation briefed attendees on the Board's regulatory examination, comprising the multiple-choice questions (MCQ) and objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). The National Manager – Registration shared the process that candidates follow when undertaking the examinations, candidates' country of qualification and other examination statistics and details on the OSCE examinations site.

2.4 Accreditation and program approval in the National Scheme

Attendees received a short presentation explaining the purpose of accreditation, how accreditation works within the National Scheme and how Chinese medicine programs are accredited and monitored by the Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee, independently of the Board.

3 Presentation – Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

3.1 Update on the Board’s work plan

The Deputy Chair gave an update on the Board’s work plan:

- Guidelines on patient health records
 - The public consultation on the proposed revised Guidelines on patient health records closed on 5 June 2024.
 - The Board will be considering all feedback in detail and due to the consultation only just closing was not able to comment at the time of the meeting.
- Advertising
 - Updates are being made to guidance specific to Chinese medicine.
- Virtual care
 - The Board will be publishing a set of FAQs online to provide information to Chinese medicine practitioners offering virtual care.
- Public information campaign
 - The Board is working on a campaign aimed at informing the public about Chinese medicine, what constitutes safe practice and the role of the Board.
- Continuing engagement with practitioners and students
 - Newsletters
 - Webinars
 - Presentations
- Continuing engagement with stakeholders
 - Professional associations
 - International regulators / education providers
 - Reference Group

3.2 Other matters (including matters referred for discussion by Professional Associations)

Attendees were also received information from the Board on:

- Board / Ahpra staffing
- The Board’s discussion with private health fund providers about provider requirements
- Internal communications
- A notification case study

4 Next meeting

To be advised.