



**Chinese
Medicine
Council**
of NSW

Annual Report 2016-17



President's Message



**Chinese
Medicine
Council**
of NSW

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Chinese Medicine Council of New South Wales (Council) for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

The number of complaints about Chinese medicine practitioners in New South Wales remained fairly consistent with last year's figures. A summary of the cases managed by the Council during 2016-17 is included in this Annual Report.

The Council takes a proactive approach to public safety. Following a complaint relating to accidental traumatic pneumothorax following acupuncture, the Council developed a digital educational package for practitioners. The material outlined patient risk factors, the clinical features of a pneumothorax as well as the management of traumatic pneumothorax including first aid.

The Council also received the draft report arising from a research study that the Council had commissioned to research the perceptions and beliefs that NSW Chinese medicine practitioners hold regarding professional regulation and the role of the Council in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The Council will use the information captured by this research in the coming year as the basis for developing educational material for NSW registered Chinese medicine practitioners.

Council members were also active in promoting the Council's activities and raising its profile at several professional conferences and educational events during the year.

The Council has continued to manage its budget effectively, which will result in another slight decrease in the annual registration fees for NSW Chinese medicine practitioners in 2018.

The Council looks forward to improving its public and professional profile and working with its co-regulatory partner, the Health Care Complaints Commission, as well as with the National Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

My role as President of the Council has been aided immeasurably by the assistance I have received from my fellow Council members, the executive and corporate services provided by the Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA) and by the Council's Executive Officer and Assistant Executive Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Zaslowski', written over a white background.

Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski

President

Chinese Medicine Council of New South Wales

Regulation of Chinese Medicine Practitioners in 2016/17

Summary overview



25

New complaints received during the year related to

- Conduct – 16
 - Performance – 9
 - Health – 0
- 1 complaint was a mandatory notification



1,984

Registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners in NSW

- 1.6% more than the previous year
- 40.8% of Chinese Medicine Practitioners in Australia
- 1.2% of Chinese Medicine practitioners in NSW had complaints made about them – 23 practitioners



44

Complaints managed

- 19 open at start of year
- 25 received during the year
- 1 immediate action matter
- 11 assessments and hearings concluded
- 31 closed during the year
- 13 open at year end
- 2 active monitoring at year end



32

Outcomes for closed complaints*

- 14 no further action
- 6 discontinued
- 4 counselling
- 3 conditions on registration
- 3 referred to another body
- 2 caution or reprimand

* A complaint may have more than one outcome

Council Communications

The Chinese Medicine Council website is the Council's primary communications tool to engage with Chinese medicine practitioners and the wider community. The Council's website is being redeveloped and updated and is expected to provide a modern, more interactive and user-friendly platform for the public, practitioners and other visitors.

The website redevelopment involved stakeholder and community consultation that included workshops, focus groups and user testing. The new website will include easy access to the Council's new online complaint form, with detailed information about the complaint process and will make it easier for visitors to access information about the Council, including policies and publications.

The new website is expected to be launched in August 2017.

Council Members

Four members sit on the Chinese Medicine Council as prescribed by section 41E of the National Law.

Registered Chinese medicine practitioner members:

- Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski PhD DipAc, BAppSc (Physiotherapy), MHLthScEd
- Ms Christine Berle MSc (Research), DipAc
- Professor Danforn (Chi Eung) Lim PhD(Med)(UNSW), EDBA(INE PAN), MBBS(UNSW), BSc(Med)(UNSW), BHltSc(CSU), DCH(Syd), ClinDipPallMed(RACP), GradDipAcup(RMIT), M.Med(Syd), M.AppSc(Acup)(RMIT), M.AppMgt(Health)(N'castle), RCMP(Acup&CHM), FRACGP, FASLM, FIML, CMgr, AFRACMA, AFCHSM, MAICD, FFCMASA, JP
- Mr Richard Li BMed (SUTCM), FAACMA

Legal member:

- Mrs Michelle Dillon LLB, SFE

Community member

- Mr Stephen Woods BEc, FIAA, GradDipFP, JP

Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski is appointed by the Governor as President of the Chinese Medicine Council.

Ms Christine Berle is appointed by the Governor as Deputy President of the Chinese Medicine Council.

Executive Officer

Mr Michael Jaques is the Executive Officer for the Chinese Medicine Council and Mr Anthony Tobin is the Assistant Executive Officer.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

Council Meeting Attendance

The Chinese Medicine Council met 11 times during the year.

Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and length of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Length of Office*
Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski – President	10	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Ms Christine Berle – Deputy President	11	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Prof Danforn Lim	10	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Mr Richard Li	11	11	1 July 2012 - 30 June 2018
Mr Stephen Woods	11	11	1 July 2015 - 30 June 2018
Mrs Michelle Dillon	7	11	29 June 2016 - 30 June 2018

* Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the National Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panel
- Performance Review Panel

The Chinese Medicine Council did not appoint any regulatory committees or panels during the year.

Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Chinese Medicine Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

Meetings and Events

The Chinese Medicine Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

Chinese Medicine Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By	Attendee Role
CMBA Briefing on safe Chinese herbal medicine practice	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski	Participant
	Ms Christine Berle	Participant
	Mr Richard Li	Participant
NRAS Conference	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski	Participant
Meeting with Chinese Medicine Board of Australia	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski	Participant
Forum on Review of NRAS Accreditation Systems - Sydney	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski	Participant
	Ms Christine Berle	Participant
Presentation to CMBA – Regulation in NSW	Ms Christine Berle	Presenter
CMASA Da-Yi-Jiang-Tan NSW Seminar	Prof Danforn Lim	Presenter

Overseas Travel

The Chinese Medicine Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

Other Council Activities

Complaints about two Chinese medicine practices in NSW led the Chinese Medicine Council to assess the practitioners for compliance against relevant standards and guidelines. Deviations from the standards were identified including:

- inadequate clinical records
- inadequate infection control procedures
- poor sanitation
- poorly labelled Chinese herbs.

The Chinese Medicine Council took action and engaged authorised persons to assist with monitoring including conducting infection control inspections and audits of clinical records.

Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

President	\$2,336 per annum
Deputy President	\$1,752 per annum
Council Members	\$1,752 per annum

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

Education and Research Account

The Chinese Medicine Council maintains an Education and Research account to fund activities that assist better understanding of conduct, performance and health issues amongst practitioners and students and management of these issues.

The Council continued to fund its commissioned research project being undertaken by the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM), at the University of Technology Sydney. The Council expended a total of \$9,091 in payments from the Education and Research account this year in accordance with agreed milestones.

Financial Management

The Chinese Medicine Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

Accounts Performance 2016/17	\$
Revenue	509,463
Operating expenditure	176,459
Gain / (loss) on disposal	-
Net result	333,004
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	1,690,694

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$27,159.

The Chinese Medicine Council's budget for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 is as follows.

Budget 2017/18	\$
Revenue	507,631
Operating expenditure	275,735
Net result	231,896

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.