



Chinese Medicine Council of NSW

Annual Report 2017-18

President's Message



I am pleased to submit the Annual Report for the Chinese Medicine Council of New South Wales (Council) for 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Over the course of the year the Chinese Medicine Council support of education and research work continued, through a research project undertaken on Chinese Medicine practitioners' knowledge, experiences and attitudes towards professional registration in NSW. The Council will now look to implement recommendations from the report.

The Council continued its work in collaboration and liaison with external stakeholders and was represented at a number of meetings and events throughout the year which are detailed further in this report. We aim to continue with engagement and raising the Council's profile into the next financial year.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Council members for their contributions. I would like to acknowledge the outgoing members, Christopher Zaslowski (President), Richard Li (practitioner member) and Michelle Dillon (legal member) who provided significant time and expertise towards Council activities during their years as Council members. I am pleased that experienced members Christine Berle (Deputy President, practitioner member) and Stephen Woods (community member) have been reappointed for another term, ensuring continuity. I welcome new members Wenbo Peng (practitioner member), Li Meikin Rees (practitioner member) and Christina Lam (legal member).

I would also like to acknowledge those who have ably assisted the Council's work through audits, inspections or panels.

The Council looks forward to continued work with its coregulatory partner, the HCCC, as well as with the National Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.



Professor Danforn Lim

President

Chinese Medicine Council of New South Wales

Regulation of Chinese Medicine Practitioners in 2017/18

SNAPSHOT



Practitioner information

1,992

Chinese medicine practitioners registered in NSW

0.4% more than last year

40.8% of registered Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia

30

NSW Chinese medicine practitioners had complaints made about them

7 more than last year

1.5% of registered Chinese medicine practitioners in NSW



Complaints received

31

new complaints were received

6 more than last year

0 mandatory notifications were received

32.3% of complaints were about National Law offences (n10) followed by:

- clinical care – 7 complaints and
- National Law breach – 6 complaints

48.3%

of complaints were from AHPRA (n 15) followed by:

- patient – 9 complaints and
- other practitioners – 2 complaints



Complaints managed

28

complaints were managed directly by the Council

9 more than last year

12

assessments and hearings were concluded

1 less than last year

2

immediate actions were considered or taken by Council

1 more than last year

0

outcomes for closed complaints involved cancelled or suspended registration

1 involved conditions on practice and
4 involved counselling or interview



Practitioners monitored

2

cases were being actively monitored at year end

1 conduct

1 performance

0 health

Council Members

Six members sit on the Chinese Medicine Council as prescribed by 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), MMed(Syd), MAppSc(Acup)(RMIT), MAppMgt(Health)(Newcastle), RCMP(Acup&CHM), FRACGP, FASLM, FIML, CMgr, AFRACMA, AFCHSM, FFCMASA, JP
- Mr Richard Li BMed (SUTCM), FAACMA

Legal member:

- Mrs Michelle Dillon LLB, SFE

Community members:

- Mr Stephen Woods BEc, FIAA, FFin, GradDipFP, JP

The NSW Governor appointed Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski as the President and Ms Christine Berle as the Deputy President of the Chinese Medicine Council.

Prof Danforn Lim commences as President on Associate Professor Zaslowski's retirement in July 2018.

Executive Officer

Mrs Maricel O'Farrell is the current Executive Officer for the Chinese Medicine Council. Mr Michael Jaques was the previous Executive Officer. Ms Farina Bains and Mrs Christine Gurson also provided Executive Officer support to Council during the year. Their work is acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. The Executive Officer leads a team that works directly and indirectly with the Council as part of the HPCA's Combined Councils Team.

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 12 times.

Table i: Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and term of office

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Date of First Appointment	Current Term of Office
Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski – President	12	12	1 July 2012	1 July 2015 - 30 June 2018
Ms Christine Berle – Deputy President	12	12	1 July 2012	1 July 2015 - 30 June 2018
Prof Danforn Lim	9	12	1 July 2012	1 July 2015 - 30 June 2018
Mr Richard Li	11	12	1 July 2012	1 July 2015 - 30 June 2018
Mr Stephen Woods	9	12	1 July 2015	1 July 2015 – 30 June 2018
Mrs Michelle Dillon	3	12	29 June 2016	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

The National Law sets out the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panels (IRP)
- Performance Review Panels (PRP)

The Council appoints regulatory committees and panels as needed.

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.

Table ii: Chinese Medicine Council representation at meetings and events

Name of Meeting / Event	Attended By
AHPRA Forum - Responsible advertising in health care	A/Prof Christopher Zaslowski - President
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Practitioner Forum	Mr Richard Li - Council Member
Chinese Medicine Board of Australia Meeting	Ms Christine Berle - Deputy President
AHPRA & HCPC UK Research Seminar - Using data and intelligence to drive improvement	A/Prof Christopher Zaslowski - President
The Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation International Congress	A/Prof Christopher Zaslowski - President
NSW Ministry of Health Workforce Planning & Development Consultation Forum	A/Prof Christopher Zaslowski - President
National Board Chairs and NSW Council Presidents joint meeting	A/Prof Christopher Zaslowski - President
Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd Annual Conference	A/Prof Christopher Zaslowski (presenter) - President
International Forum of Chinese-Australian Traditional Medicine	Prof Danforn Lim (presenter) - Council Member
Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Conference	A/Prof Christopher Zaslowski (presenter) - President

Overseas Travel

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

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. This helps fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that can lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund relevant research activity including both Council specific initiatives and collaborative projects.

Education and Research account expenditure this year included \$5,900 to the University of Technology Sydney for a research project undertaken on Chinese Medicine practitioners' knowledge, experiences and attitudes towards professional registration in NSW.

Financial Management

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

Accounts Performance 2017/18	\$
Revenue	509,830
Operating expenditure	216,260
Gain / (loss) on disposal	(36)
Net result	293,534
Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	2,001,611

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$21,975.

The Chinese Medicine Council's budget for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 is as follows.

Budget 2018/19	\$
Revenue	476,956
Operating expenditure	285,415
Net result	191,541

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