



**Annual  
Report  
2015-16**

**Chinese  
Medicine  
Council**

of New South Wales

## President's message



*Chinese Medicine Council  
of New South Wales*

This annual report brings to an end a busy period for the Chinese Medicine Council. The number of complaints for the 2015/16 period more than doubled rising from 12 during the previous 2014/15 period to 26 for the current period.

In response to this increase the Council has commissioned a research project aimed at identifying the level of awareness of existing Guidelines and Codes by Chinese medicine practitioners in NSW. The results from this research will assist the Council in developing educational materials for the Council website to educate Chinese medicine practitioners in the areas of professional conduct, impairment and performance thereby reducing future complaints.

In March 2016 the Council farewelled Mr Michael Eagle, our legal representative, due to his increasing work commitments, and welcomed Ms Michelle Dillion in July 2016 as the Council's new legal member.

The Council has decided to increase the frequency of its online newsletter from a yearly to a biannual publication. A key feature of the newsletter is to educate NSW practitioners regarding commonly reported complaints and raise awareness amongst NSW practitioners. Several Council members also presented at local academic conferences to raise the Council's profile and inform practitioners of Council activities.

Finally the Council met with the National Board in June 2016 resulting in fruitful discussion on information sharing strategies and common interests regarding the complaint process and complaint resolution. For the future 2016/17 period, the Council aims to complete the commissioned research project, develop the specific practitioner educational material for the Council website and continue to promote the Council at academic conferences and educational events throughout NSW.

**Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski**  
President  
Chinese Medicine Council

# Regulation of Chinese Medicine Practitioners in 2015/16

## Overview

**1,953**

**REGISTERED CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS IN NSW**

7.3% more than last year in NSW  
41% of Chinese Medicine Practitioners in Australia

**26**

**NEW COMPLAINTS RECEIVED RELATED TO**

Conduct - 13  
Performance - 12  
Health - 1

**11**

**CLOSED COMPLAINT OUTCOMES INCLUDED**

2 referred to another body  
7 no further action  
2 discontinued

**30**

**COMPLAINTS WERE MANAGED**

4 open at start of year  
26 received during the year  
11 closed during the year  
19 open at end of year  
2 active monitoring cases at end of year

## Regulation of Chinese medicine practitioners in NSW in 2015/16

### Year in summary

As at 30 June 2016 NSW had 1,953 registered Chinese medicine practitioners representing 41% of the 4,762 Chinese medicine practitioners registered to practise in Australia. There was an increase of 7.3% on the 1,820 Chinese medicine practitioners registered in NSW last year.

During the year the Chinese Medicine Council of NSW managed 30 complaints including:

- 4 open matters at the start of the year
- 26 new complaints received during the year.

By year end 11 complaints had been closed and 19 matters remained open.

The 26 new complaints received this year were about 25 practitioners representing 1.28% of NSW registered Chinese medicine practitioners. There were 14 more complaints received this year compared with the 12 complaints received in 2014/15.

New complaints received this year included two mandatory notifications.

The Council received nine complaints from patients; nine from AHPRA; four from a treating or other practitioner; one from a relative of a patient or practitioner; one from another source; and one anonymous complaint.

Complaints received about NSW Chinese medicine practitioners related to:

- Conduct – 13 complaints
- Performance – 12 complaints.
- Health – 1 complaint.

Two clinical care complaints received immediate action consideration.

After Council consultations with the HCCC, 21 of the complaints received during the year were referred for Council management.

One matter was referred to NCAT.

One health assessment and six counselling/interview sessions were concluded.

Outcomes for the 11 matters closed during the year were as follows.

Outcome	Number
No further action	7
All or part referred to another body	2
Discontinued	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

At year end two cases were being actively monitored, including one conduct matter and one performance matter.

## Council Membership

Section 41E of the Law prescribes that there are six members of the Chinese Medicine Council appointed by the Governor.

Members who are registered Chinese medicine practitioners:

- Associate Professor Christopher Zaslowski Dip Ac, Grad Dip Chi Med, Adv Cert Ac, BApp Sc (Syd), M Hlth Sc, Edu PhD – President
- Ms Christine Berle MSc (Research), Dip Ac – Deputy President
- Mr Richard Li B Med (TCM)
- Dr Danforn Lim JP, PhD (Med) (UNSW), MBBS BSc (Med), B Hlth Sc, DCH, Clin Dip Pal Med, M Med, M App Sc (Acup), M App Mgt (Health), RCMP (Acup & CHIM), AFRACMA, AFCHSM, MACNEM, MACE.

Legal member:

- Mr Michael Eagle LLB (Resigned 8.5.16).

Community member:

- Mr Stephen Woods BEc, FIAA, Grad Dip FP, JP.

## Attendance at Council Meetings

The Chinese Medicine Council met on 11 occasions. Attendance at the meetings was as follows.

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend
Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski	11	11
Ms Christine Berle	11	11
Mr Richard Li	11	11
Dr Danforn Lim	9	11
Mr Stephen Woods	10	11
Mr Michael Eagle (to 8.5.16)	6	10

## Executive Officer

The Chinese Medicine Council was supported by Mr Michael Jaques, Executive Officer, and Ms Christine Gursen and Mr Anthony Tobin, Assistant Executive Officers, all employed by the HPCA.

### Committees of Council

Section 41F of the Law provides that the Council may establish committees to assist it with the exercise of its functions. Members of committees need not be Council members. The Chinese Medicine Council did not appoint any committees during the reporting period.

### Regulatory Committees and Panels

Part 8 of the Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities. They include Assessment Committees, Impaired Registrants Panels and Performance Review Panels. The Council did not appoint any of these bodies during the reporting period.

### Meetings and Conferences

The Chinese Medicine Council was represented at the following meetings and conferences.

Name	Attendance
Council Presidents' Forum	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski Ms Christine Berle
Sydney Meeting of the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski Ms Christine Berle Mr Richard Li Adj Prof Danforn Lim
CMASA International Forum of Chinese-Australian Traditional Chinese Medicine	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski Ms Christine Berle Mr Richard Li Adj Prof Danforn Lim
CMASA Seminar - Professional Issues for registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners	Adj Prof Danforn Lim
Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA) Conference - Perth	Mr Richard Li

### Overseas Travel

There was no overseas travel during the reporting period.

### Council Communications

The Chinese Medicine Council website is the principal medium used for communicating information to Chinese medicine practitioners, Chinese medicine students and the community. The website is updated regularly and includes links to other key bodies in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The Chinese Medicine Council also distributes an electronic newsletter to Chinese medicine practitioners with a principal place of practice in NSW. Further information is available at [www.chinesemedicinecouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.chinesemedicinecouncil.nsw.gov.au).

### Remuneration

Remuneration for members of the Council was as follows.

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

In addition, Council members receive sitting fees for the conduct of Council Inquiries and for attendance at committee meetings and other regulatory activities, if held on a day other than the Council meeting. Council members are reimbursed for expenses incurred when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Members of panels and Tribunals also receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses.

### Financial Management

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

Accounts Performance 2015/16	\$
Revenue	546,916
Operating expenditure	150,324
Gain/(loss) on disposal	70
<b>Net result</b>	<b>396,662</b>
<b>Net cash reserves (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>1,346,101</b>

\* Included in the net cash reserves is Education and Research bank account balance of \$36,483. The Chinese Medicine Council's budget for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 is as follows.

Budget 2016/17	\$
Revenue	509,649
Operating expenditure	227,010
<b>Net result</b>	<b>282 639</b>

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