

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 15



CHINESE MEDICINE COUNCIL
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Chinese Medicine Council
of New South Wales*

I am pleased to introduce the 2015 report for the Chinese Medicine Council. The information marks the third such report for this Council under the National Accreditation and Registration Scheme.

Chinese Medicine practitioners may be registered in one or more of three divisions: acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine and Chinese herbal dispensing.

The primary responsibility of the Council, in conjunction with the Health Care Complaints Commission, is to protect the public by managing performance, conduct and health concerns relating to Chinese Medicine practitioners and students in NSW.

Over the past year, there was a 50% increase in complaints rising from eight in 2013/14 to 12 in the 2014/15 period. This report provides more detail about the nature of these complaints.

The HPCA continues to provide the Chinese Medicine Council with effective, efficient and professional support to help it perform its regulatory and legislative functions. This support facilitates the Council in fulfilling its public protection charter, which includes ensuring that Chinese Medicine practitioners practise in a safe and ethical manner.

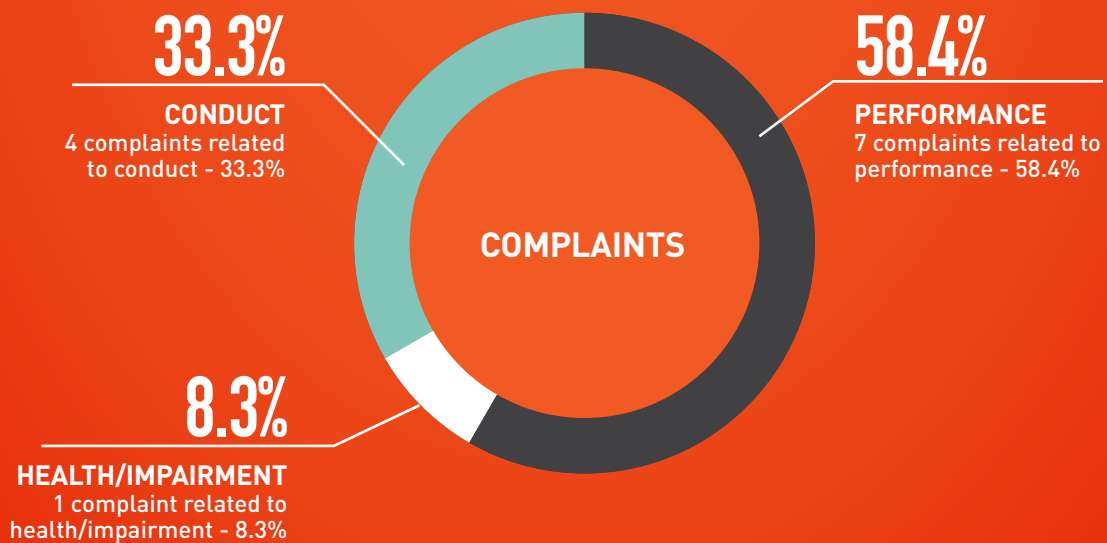
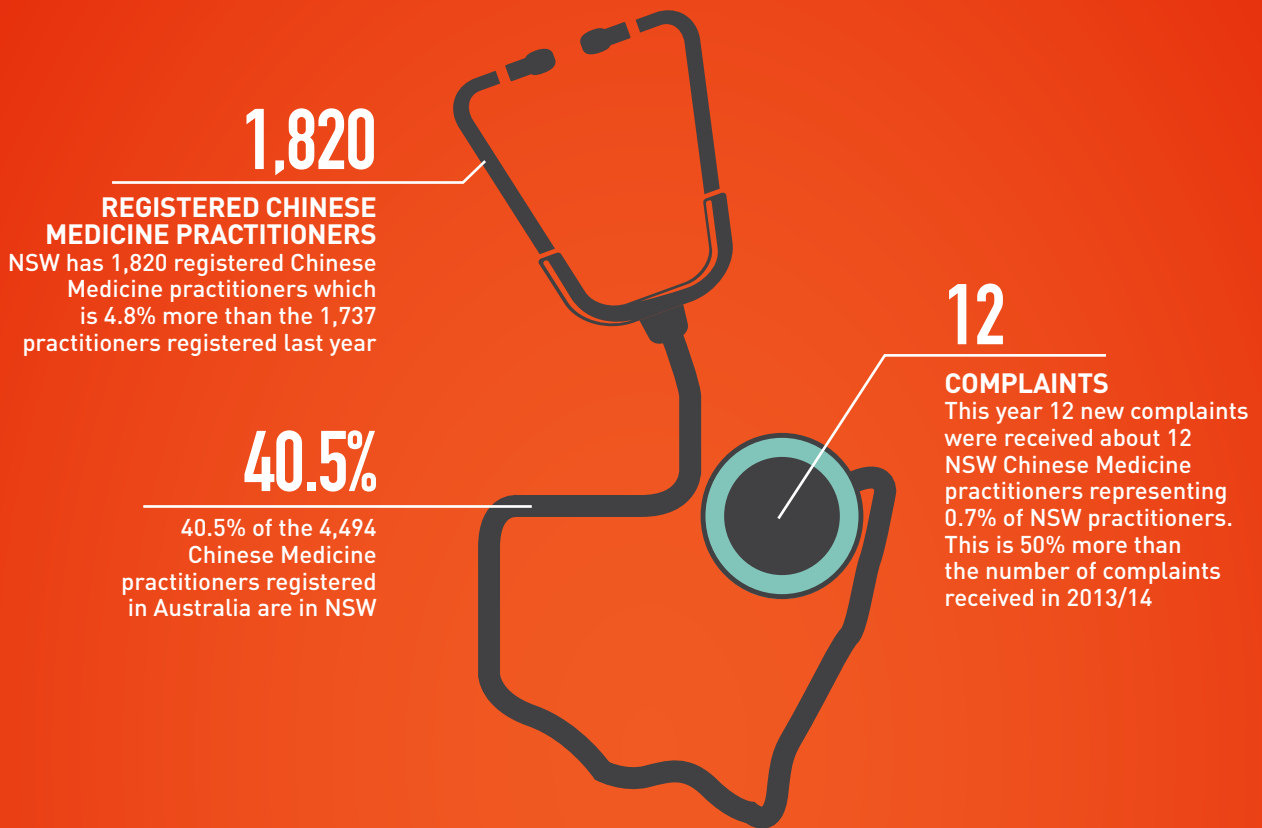
Finally, I would like to thank Ms Karen Thomas, the Council's outgoing Community Member, for her valued contribution to the Council's deliberations over the past three years and welcome Mr Stephen Woods, who has been appointed in the Community Member role for a three-year term.

The Chinese Medicine Council will continue to maintain our responsibility in protecting the public and I look forward to contributing to this task in the coming year.

(Associate Professor) Christopher Zaslowski

President
Chinese Medicine Council

REGULATION OF CHINESE MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS IN 2014/15 YEAR IN SUMMARY



Regulation of Chinese Medicine practitioners in NSW in 2014/15

Year in summary

NSW has 1,820 registered Chinese Medicine practitioners which is 4.8% more than the 1,737 practitioners registered last year and 40.5% of the 4,494 Chinese Medicine practitioners registered to practise in Australia.

This year 12 new complaints were received about 12 NSW Chinese Medicine practitioners representing 0.7% of NSW registered Chinese Medicine practitioners. This is 50% more than the number of complaints received about NSW registered Chinese Medicine practitioners in 2013/14.

Complaints about NSW Chinese Medicine practitioners included:

- 4 related to conduct – 33.3%
- 7 related to performance – 58.4%
- 1 related to health/impairment – 8.3%.

One mandatory notification was received.

Four complaints were received from patients, two from an insurance company and one each from a relative, Police, another health practitioner, AHPRA, the public and an anonymous source.

A total of 14 complaints were managed during the reporting period, including two carried over from 2013/14.

Two complaints were immediate action matters, one involved health assessment and one involved an Impaired Registrants Panel.

Six practitioners were monitored for compliance with orders/conditions in the reporting period.

Ten complaints were closed during the year with outcomes including:

- 1 referred to another body
- 1 out of jurisdiction to act
- 1 required no further action after assessment
- 1 withdrawn
- 6 discontinued.

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, B App 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

Community members:

- Mr Michael Eagle LLB – Legal Member
- Ms Karen Thomas Dip Law, Dip RTH

During the year no new members were appointed and no members retired.

At the end of June 2015 one member, Ms Karen Thomas, retired.

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	10	11
Ms Christine Berle	11	11
Mr Richard Li	9	11
Dr Danforn Lim	9	11
Mr Michael Eagle	10	11
Ms Karen Thomas	11	11

Executive Officer

The Chinese Medicine Council was supported by Michael Jaques, Executive Officer and Ms Christine Gursen, Assistant Executive Officer, 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 was supported by one of these bodies during the reporting period with membership as follows:

Regulatory Committee or Panel	Membership	Meetings Attended
Impaired Registrants Panel	Dr Karen Arnold – Medical member	1
	Mr Dale Elsdon – Practitioner member	1
	Mr Shengxi (George) Zhang – Practitioner member	1

Meetings and Conferences

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

Name	Attendance
Council Presidents' Forum – bi-monthly meetings	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski Dr Danforn Lim
Council Presidents' Forum meeting with the NSW Minister for Health	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski
NRAS Combined Meeting	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski
Presentation at Chinese Medicine Acupuncture Society of Australia (CMASA) Teaching Seminar	Dr Danforn Lim
Meetings with National Chinese Medicine Board	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski
Meeting with AHPRA Agency Management Committee	Assoc Prof Christopher Zaslowski

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 may be accessed on the Council's website at 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 of \$448 per day and \$218 per half day for the conduct of Council Inquiries and \$256 per day and \$128 per half day for attendance at committee meetings and other regulatory activities, if held on a day other than the monthly 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 is as follows.

Accounts Performance 2014/15	\$
Revenue	541,959
Operating expenditure	125,224
Gain/(loss) on disposal	(1,118)
Net result	415,617
Net cash reserves (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	951,457

* Included in the net cash reserves is Education and Research bank account balance of: \$36,061
The Chinese Medicine Council's budget for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 is as follows.

Budget 2015/16	\$
Operating expenditure	202,643
Revenue	498,819
Net result	296,176

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