



## Chinese Medicine Council of New Zealand

**Building public trust and confidence in Chinese Medicine as a safe, valid,  
and integral part of the Aotearoa New Zealand health system.**

# July Newsletter

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Kia ora tātou,

It was great to see so many practitioners join us for our meeting on Wednesday. Thank you for taking time out of your day to find out more about registration. Thanks to the Council members who also attended and provided more information about the importance of registration as well as the functions of the Council. A big thank you to Kate and Lindsey for all their efforts in making everything as clear as possible so that the actual process of registration is as straightforward as it possibly can be. If you weren't able to join us this week, we are repeating the information at midday on Monday July 17. Register via our website.

Registration under the HPCA Act is something that many in our profession have worked toward for many years. Those of us on the Council are simply carrying on the work that has been done by all those before us. It's exciting to be so close to actually taking our first registrations and having Chinese medicine practitioners take our place alongside all the other health professions.

If you haven't done so already, get those documents ready so that you can apply for registration as soon as everything on the website is finalized and we open up for business.

Thinking of everyone still affected by all the rain, flooding, slips and other chaos and hoping the sun shines soon in your corner of the country. Stay warm everyone.

Ngā mihi  
**Paddy McBride**  
Chair – CMCNZ

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## Message from the Acting Registrar

Tēnā anō koutou,

We're getting ever closer to opening registrations and it's great to see so many people signing up to the Council's website contact list so they don't miss out on any important updates. If you haven't signed up already, please do so via the Council's [homepage](#).

The number of email and phone enquiries about registration is increasing as well, which is encouraging. If you have any questions after reading the online checklists and other preparation documents, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. You can email us [here](#) or phone us on 04 978 5040.



One common enquiry that has been coming through is about the cost to register. You can find information about the Council's gazetted fees [here](#). To register, there is one set fee, and then once your application is approved, you will be invited to apply for your annual practising certificate (APC), which is another set fee. For those applying via the Grandparenting, NZ-Qualified, or TTMRA pathways, the registration fee is \$200 (incl. GST) regardless of how many scopes you are applying for at once, and the APC fee is \$422.50 (incl. GST).

Preparation is key, so as Paddy has indicated, getting your supporting documents ready will help the application process go smoothly and quickly. In saying this, you are able to save your application as you go, so if you find you need to locate something additional during the process, you can save where you are up to and come back to your application later.

We'll let everyone know as soon as there is a confirmed launch date for registrations. In the meantime, please check out all the information available on the website and get in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns.

Kua rahi tēnei,

**Lindsey Pine**

Project Manager/Acting Registrar

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## Registrations are opening soon!



Applications for registration with the Chinese Medicine Council of New Zealand are opening in July. There are four different pathways for practitioners who are wanting to apply for registration.

1. Grand-parenting pathway
2. New Zealand Approved Qualifications
3. Overseas-qualified CM practitioners
4. Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997

The Council has developed [registration guides](#) to assist practitioners with their registration on each of the pathways. Use these [helpful checklists](#) to make sure you have everything you need for your application (insert link), and that your documents are correct before they are submitted.

Once registrations have opened, [create a login at MYCMCNZ on the Council website](#) and you will be guided through the process. If you have any questions about your registration, please contact us at [reception@chinesemedicinecouncil.org.nz](mailto:reception@chinesemedicinecouncil.org.nz) or

Phone: +64 4 978 5040

## Update on criminal checks



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Request your own Criminal Conviction History" from the Ministry of Justice. It includes a "Step 1 Your details" section with fields for "Your name", "Date of birth", "Country of birth", "Country of residence", "Date of arrival", "Gender", and "Race". There is also a "Next" button and a "Back" button.

Following stakeholder feedback please note that there have been changes to the criminal conviction checks.

These changes are detailed below:

**Criminal conviction check** - Please request a criminal conviction check online from the [Ministry of Justice website here](#). This must be dated no more than 6 months prior to you submitting your registration application, and you must include all names you are, or have been, known by. If you have lived overseas for 12 months or more, while aged 18 or over, in the past 7 years, you must also provide a criminal conviction check which is less than six months old from that country. We accept the same documents as Immigration New Zealand, [please see their website for details on how to request the correct certificate here](#).

If a conviction in New Zealand is disclosed on your criminal history record that has been covered by the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004, then the Council will treat this type of conviction as discharged under this Act and will disregard this conviction when considering your application.

Criminal conviction records from the USA – In addition to your FBI Identity History Summary Check, you will need to provide a criminal history record issued by the state police department in the state where you resided and all other states you have previously resided in for 12 months or more, while you were aged 18 years or over, in the past 7 years.

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Council has created a [frequently asked questions page](#) on their website for our most commonly asked questions. We have included a few of the most asked questions here, and expanded on some of the information based on queries the Council has been receiving.

### **The ACC legislation hasn't changed yet, and I don't want to pay for two Annual Practising Certificate (APC) fees; can I wait to register with the Council until the legislation changes?**

No. To lawfully practise as a Chinese medicine practitioner in New Zealand once registration opens with the Council, Chinese medicine practitioners must be registered and hold a current practising certificate issued by the Council. The Council is working with ACC to progress the necessary legislative changes as quickly as possible for Chinese medicine practitioners.

There will be an interim period where Chinese medicine practitioners will need to hold an APC issued by the Council as well as from their respective voluntary regulator (AcNZ or NZASA) to practise legally and have their services funded through ACC.

While the 'Grand-parenting' pathway to registration is open for 12 months, this is to allow for practitioners who may be away overseas or who are currently not practising Chinese medicine for reasons such as illness or parental leave etc. and who may not currently be aware that Chinese medicine is now a regulated profession.

Anyone who applies for registration after the bulk of initial applications have been processed will be asked to attest to the fact that they have not been unlawfully practising Chinese medicine.

### **Can I continue to practise without being registered with anyone?**

Anyone who decides to practise without registering with anyone will need to be mindful of the following:

- not to use names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations, or descriptions stating or implying that they are a Chinese medicine practitioner, Acupuncturist, Chinese herbal medicine practitioner, or Chinese massage (tuina) practitioner unless they are registered, and are qualified to be registered, with the Council
- not to claim to be practising as a Chinese medicine practitioner, Acupuncturist, Chinese herbal medicine practitioner, or Chinese massage (tuina) practitioner or state or do anything that may be calculated to suggest that they can practise or are willing to practise unless they are registered with the Council and hold an annual practising certificate issued by the Council
- the requirements for receiving funding from ACC.

### **What are the consequences for continuing to practise without registration?**

Now that Chinese medicine has been regulated, practising Chinese medicine without being registered with the Council is *unlawful*. More specifically, practitioners could find themselves in breach of section 7 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (the Act). Contravening this section of the Act is punishable on conviction of a fine not exceeding \$10,000. It is the Ministry of Health who enforces and prosecutes practitioners for breaches of the Act.

The Council will take very seriously any allegation that a practitioner may have practised for even one day without being registered and holding a valid annual practising certificate (APC) issued by the Council. When registrations open, the Council's expectation is that practitioners will submit their applications without delay. Once the Council has processed the bulk of applications, if the number of registered practitioners is not at the anticipated level, the Council will be issuing warning letters to individuals who appear to be in breach of the Act and will be working with Ministry of Health officials to ensure consumers are not being misled. Any breach of the Act will be taken into account in considering someone's future application for registration/an APC.

In addition, practitioners could find that practising unlawfully puts their professional indemnity insurance in jeopardy.

**I have only registered with a professional body in the last three years, can I still apply via the Grand-parenting policy?**

The Council recognises that not all applications will fit easily within the requirements of the *Policy on Grand-parenting*. If you have only recently registered with AcNZ, NZASA, NZCMAS or NZRTCMP and cannot quite meet the requirements of the *Policy on Grand-parenting*, the Council encourages you to get in contact with us to discuss your individual situation and what pathway for registration might be right for you. The Council will consider such applications on a case-by-case basis taking into account an individual applicant's situation, the various pathways available for registration, as well as the need to ensure public safety.

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## Consultation Feedback and Published Standards

The Chinese Medicine Council of New Zealand (the Council) recently sought feedback on the following documents:

- Draft Informed Consent Standard
- Draft Advertising Standards
- Draft Clinical Record Standard
- Draft Professional Boundaries Standard

14 submissions were received via email and feedback was incorporated into the revised documents. The Council extends its thanks and appreciation to the individuals and groups who provided feedback. The Council met on 20 June to review the consultation feedback and amended versions of the documents. [A summary of the feedback and the published documents are now available on the Council website.](#)

## **The CMC will be at the Acupuncture New Zealand Conference!**

Come and visit us at our information table to ask any questions about registration or the Council and come and have your documents verified for the purpose of registration by our Acting Registrar. Council representatives will also be presenting on the recertification/CPD process, and how to make it meaningful, relevant and compliant!

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### **Upcoming Online Event - *Regulation and Beyond* 12-2pm Monday 17th July**

The Chinese Medicine Council of New Zealand welcomes the CM profession and its stakeholders to its upcoming online event.

*Session outline*

- Demystifying Regulation
- What is the role of the CMCNZ (Chinese Medicine Council of New Zealand)?
- Purpose of the HPCA (Health Practitioners Competence Assurance) – Section 118 and Chinese Medicine
- Progress to date and regulation moving forward/or how to registration guide?
- Q and A panel

This will be held using Microsoft teams is eligible for CPD (Continuing Professional Development) with the Council.

**[To register your interest please RSVP here.](#)**

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## Invitation for Tangata whenua to be part of the kōrero for the future of the CM profession in Aotearoa



The Council is seeking kupu tohutohu tikanga (advice regarding protocol and correct process) by holding a series of hui (discussion forums). These hui will be for **Tangata whenua within the Chinese medicine hāpori** (community). The Council will be represented by Mana Fleming (Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangī).

The kaupapa (purpose) is to connect and strengthen relationships amongst Māori Mātanga whānau (experts/practitioners). These hui will be held to create whakawhanaungatanga and enable kōrero that will lead to initiatives across the CM profession that benefit and support the delivery of healthcare to Māori. This is also to strengthen the CM obligations under the Te Tiriti o Waitangi.


If you would be willing and interested in being part of this kōrero, please email Mana at [reception@chinesemedicinecouncil.org.nz](mailto:reception@chinesemedicinecouncil.org.nz) or [mana.fleming@chinesemedicinecouncil.org.nz](mailto:mana.fleming@chinesemedicinecouncil.org.nz)

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