



Federation of Chinese Medicine &
Acupuncture Societies of Australia Ltd.
澳洲全國中醫藥針灸學會聯合會 (National Body)

FCMA

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Newsletter

February 2013

President's Message

Dear members,

I wish all of you a prosperous Chinese New Year, in the Year of Snake. Leading from the Christmas, New Year's holidays.

I asked Mr. Bob Sercombe, the FCMA consultant for Special Affairs to commence his role earlier than expected this year in managing dealings with the private health funds. We have re-submitted an application for recognition as an accepted association for consultation fee rebate on 12th November, 2012 to Bupa (previously having submitted in 2009 and 2011 which were both unsuccessful), and are now waiting for a formal reply. In order to protect the overall interests of all members we have given Bupa many suggestions including that the education qualification of members should be accredited under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). It is assumed that Bupa needs more time to review our comprehensive submission.

Meanwhile, Bob and I have met many times to discuss and modify the submission to HCF. Bob completed all documentation for submission on the 16th of February 2013 and has submitted them to HCF on behalf of the FCMA before he went overseas for business (the first submission in 2010 was not successful). We are now waiting for further negotiation. The Secretariat of the FCMA will inform all members as soon as there is any news in regards to this matter.

I was a representative on behalf of the FCMA in the composition of an official letter to Mr. Martin Flencher, the CEO of AHPRA on 18th February 2013. In the letter I pointed out that FCMA has already gained majority support from the professional associations who expressed their interest to join the rotation system for representation of the Chinese Medicine profession in the Professions Reference Group (PRG) established by AHPRA. The PRG is composed of 14 organisations health that are included within NRAS; each health profession has an association representing its profession. The PRG meeting will be held on the 26th of February 2013.

On the 21st of February 2013 we received an email from AHPRA officially confirming that FCMA be in the first round in representing the Chinese Medicine profession in PRG.

Best regards,

Professor Tzi Chiang Lin

President, FCMA

24th of February 2013, the Lantern Festival

1. Development Plan of the FCMA for 2013

Completion of the Development Plan for FCMA in 2013 was executed. The goals and implementation rules have been decided and were drafted by the FCMA's Secretariat and then discussed with the President, Vice-presidents, the Standing Director and Directors. Issues concerned the industry environment, current conditions of the FCMA, and the challenges we are facing.

The development goals are as follows:

- Maintain the current number of members as well as welcoming the return of old members.
- Encourage practitioners to join FCMA.
- Actively recruit new members including student members.
- Help our members in the attainment of a fair working environment with various benefits.
- Assist the improvements of members' academic knowledge and clinical skills through organizing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities.
- Solidify the management of the FCMA.
- Assist in communication between members themselves and between members and the FCMA Board of Directors.
- Develop a sound financial management policy for the FCMA.

To further our development goals we have opened a hot line: 1300 367 136. All are welcome to ring and consult with the Secretary Dr. Donna Chew during Australian Eastern hour times, from Monday to Friday, (9.00am-5.00pm).

Dr. Chew is on holidays until the 13th March 2013, alternatively you may email us at contactus@fcma.org.au

2. CPD

The Secretariat of FCMA has redesigned the *FCMA CPD Record Card 2013* and its instruction according to newly released “Guidelines for CPD” published by Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA) during New Year’s break with the support of Dr. Angela Yang from the Victorian branch of FCMA. This Record Card has been sent to all members last month. Please read the instructions thoroughly, be actively involved in all CPD activities organised by FCMA and insure no less than 20 hours per year of CPD. All members should set up an individual Portfolio of attendance of CPD and keep all evidences for 5 years in case of random audit by AHPRA. All content must be recorded in English and comply with other details outlined in the Record Card.

3. Important Message from Medibank Private for Remedial Massage Therapists

Medibank Private has revised its definition “remedial massage” and relevant provider recognition criteria from 13th November 2012, please find the attached two important documents for your information.

4. Recent Activities in the Branches

At the beginning of the New Year, all FCMA branches held a variety of events around Australia.

After the election of a new committee last year, CPD activity was held in January amongst the Queensland branch.

A committee meeting for standing committee members of the NSW branch was held in Sydney on the 28th of January 2013. Dr Kevin Chang and his team discussed issues with the Federal Minister for Health, Hon Tanya Plibersek at the Chinese New Year celebration. Kevin consulted with the Minister about the Chinese Medicine registration issues concerning Conditional Registration and English test. The Minister assured that all concerns would be directed to the most appropriate departments for investigation. Plibersek wished the members of FCMA-NSW a healthy and prosperous year.

The Victorian branch of FCMA held its first committee meeting this year on the 4th of February 2013. Mr. Bob Sercombe, who was in attendance updated the attendees on the progress of the current negotiations with the private health funds, (as reported above in the section of President Message). Agreements were made at the meeting including the selection of representatives who will attend the standing committee for the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS) in May, and the 10th World Congress of Chinese Medicine in October 2013. The Victorian branch has also made preparations for the increase of number of regular meetings and to encourage CPD activities within members.

The branch in the nation's capital city, Canberra, has been working on numbers and the constant development of members' professional skills. Two more registered Chinese medicine practitioners applied for membership. The Multicultural Festival, in Canberra, was a great opportunity for members to attend and be active within the community to enhance the public's perspective on Chinese Medicine and promote the importance of Chinese Medicine as a registered health profession and in the contribution to public and community health. Another way of raising awareness by the members was to display their abilities by way of presentations and case studies which was provided by doctors, gynaecologists and nutritionists. The feedback from members has been very positive with all members enjoying the benefit of the CPD activities organised by their local branch.

Our South Australian branch has also had a busy start to the New Year. It started by holding the committee meeting on the 24th February 2013. SA has collaborated all the activities from last year and has summarised and allocated responsibilities to individual committee members. For the coming year the South Australia branch is very interested in pursuing an increased amount of CPD activities. Another important focus will be enhancing clinical management and regulation of practices operating in South Australia. Events such as entertainments and sports activities are also planned to increase the community involvement of the association and to address the needs of the community by nurturing cultural ties.

The Western Australian branch has started off the year with activities and events being planned and prepared, with the development of a wider network and more extensive membership being a high priority. Academic involvement in community events will aim to reach a wider audience to welcome more into trying Chinese Medicine as a complementary, supplementary and supportive health care service.

5. HICAPS System

The provider number for each practitioner is different for each private health fund and a provider number and item code must be provided to a patient if they want to claim the consultation fees back from their private health insurer.

However with the HICAPS system, patients can claim the treatment fees back without taking the receipt to the insurance provider branch or claiming online. They can claim on the spot in your practice.

Before applying for a new account with HICAPS the FCMA Secretariat will provide you with the certificate which contains your membership details. Most of the other private health insurers except HCF can be linked and claimed from using HICAPS. Free installation and instructions will be provided to you by technician from HICAPS and you can also refund your purchase of HICAPS within 30 days if the product does not meet your needs. For more information about HICAPS, please visit the following website: <http://www.hicaps.com.au/>.

6. Reminders

1) CPD Record Card for 2012.

In January the Secretariat emailed a template of *CPD Record Card 2013* to all members and requested a return of completed CPD Record Card 2012. However some members have not sent back their record cards for 2012. Those members who have not sent their CPD Record Card for 2012 please contact the Secretariat and post it back ASAP. It is a requirement of the registration and administration system of management that every member must have the correct and up to date CPD data. CPD record is important for the evaluation of membership, registration and eligibility for insurance rebates, please pay close attention to this matter as CPD can be audited by private health funds or AHPRA.

It was found that a few members did not fill the CPD Record Card as required. There are some main areas (shown below) which need to be adjusted in the New Year:

- A. Did not fill the Card in English;
- B. Did not attend the CPD for professional issues;
- C. No signature;
- D. Did not categorise the CPD as formal or informal activities as required;
- E. Did not record the CPD by the number of hours but by points as before.

2) Associate members

So far, there are still some members who have not provided their CMBA Registration number to the Secretariat. Those members have already been transferred as “associate members” since 1 January 2013. Their names will not be reported to the private health funds as for eligibility of rebate status until those members provide the certificate and number of their CMBA registration. In the meanwhile, we would like to remind each member: if your patients are unable to claim health benefits from private health funds, such as Medibank Private, please consider the following circumstances at first:

- A. Whether you have provided FCMA with your valid professional indemnity insurance certificate.
- B. Whether you have provided FCMA with your valid First Aid certificate.
- C. Whether you have registered with CMBA or have provided FCMA with your CMBA registration certificate and number.

If you believe you have provided all those documents listed above and you patients are still unable to claim a rebate, please contact the FCMA Secretariat.

Compiled by the Secretariat of FCMA

25th February 2013