



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

March 2014

### I. President's Message

Dear Members:

The start of the New Year brought about a discussion among the FCMA Board Directors in response to the opportunities and challenges faced so far and to assist the improvement and strength of FCMA.

The Board has discussed and passed the "FCMA Development Plan 2014" (herein after referred to as the "plan", which implements rules as an important guiding document. The plan includes industry conditions, the FCMA's current situation, opportunities and challenges, development and implementation planning. Our objective is to be one of the most professional Chinese medicine associations, and to maintain government communication with ease defending the interests of members and the promotion of further development of Chinese medicine in Australia.

Last year information was put forward to the Federal Minister for Health in regards to health fund rebates and the inclusion of the Chinese medicine profession into the Medicare system. Our special advisor Mr Bob Sercombe and I have discussed how to further communicate with several government departments, whilst also having met with Parliament officials more than once.

Professor Tzi Chiang Lin PhD  
President, FCMA

## II. "FCMA Development Plan 2014"

### 1. Strategic Analysis

#### 1) Industry Environment

In comparison with 2012, there have been no significant changes in the past year. There are issues of self-management and lack of communication among the associations.

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA) has issued the "Infection prevention and control guidelines for acupuncture practice" in September 2013 and in December it pointed out that the majority of complaints received were infection control matters. CMBA has also released a preliminary consultation on "Draft guidelines on writing prescriptions, labeling and dispensing of Chinese medicine for Chinese medicine practitioners" to the relevant agencies including FCMA in January this year.

#### 2) FCMA

FCMA continues to improve its administration. The FCMA Board consists of a Standard, Academic and CPD committee, a Qualification Assessment committee and, Disciplinary committee, as well as a Secretariat, Journal editorial board, advisors and administrative staff, a members' hotline is also available.

FCMA has recruited 42 new practitioner members in 2013. FCMA was supported by ANTA and has joined the first round of the Professional Reference Groups (PRG) to the Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) on behalf of the Chinese Medicine profession. We attended three PRG meetings organised by AHPRA in 2013. On 6 October 2013, FCMA held an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Symposium, as well as launching the Australian Journal of Chinese Medicine and Science "(AJCMS). Each state branch held a variety of academic seminars and workshops to improve academic standards of the members to maintain its leading position in the profession.

### 2. Opportunities and Challenges

After a challenging year of hard work, we finally received correspondence from the noted health funds. HCF and NIB refused to recognise our association for various reasons.

### 3. Development Plan

#### A. Development Goals

1) To stabilise the existing number of members we welcome the return of former FCMA members, to actively recruit new members and student members.

2) To seek a fair practicing environment and a variety of benefits for members.

3) Displaying that FCMA can regularly organise high levels of professional academic activities, thus increasing member's academic standards and professional quality are our main goal.

4) To strengthen management, establishing effective communication between Board Directors and members.

5) To enhance the transparency of financial management.

## B. Development Tasks and Implementation

- 1) In view of some the private health funds refusal towards our association, we will lobby the federal government to amend the relevant Rules. FCMA representatives have met with the Federal Health Minister and submitted briefings on 19 December 2013;
- 2) To continue organising various forms of academic activities and workshops, such as collaboration of upgrading courses from advanced diploma to Bachelor degree, Master and PhD degree with academic institutes in China. To organise IELTS exam study courses and each branch arranges academic activities under the guide of the Academic and CPD committee;
- 3) To organise seminars in professional issues and article submission in each branch to raise members' level of professionalism and publishing papers;
- 4) To look for more discount benefit for members when they purchase professional indemnity insurance (PII), participate in First aid training courses, buy needles, herbs and other medical supplies;
- 5) To lobby the federal government for Medicare rebate for Chinese medicine services;
- 6) To compile quarterly “FCMA Newsletter” and publish FCMA professional journal AJCMS biannually;
- 7) To recruit new members, especially student members. The Secretariat will publish FCMA brochures which will be sent to Chinese Medicine teaching institutions
- 8) To organise the AGM and Board meeting;
- 9) To enhance transparency of FCMA financial management system. This year it will be in strict accordance with requirements of the “FCMA2013/2014 Budget” to manage all financial expenditures;
- 10) To communicate with other national and overseas Chinese medicine associations, CMBA and government administrations effectively. The Secretariat will organise in response to any consultation documents issued by authorities.

Compiled by FCMA Secretariat