



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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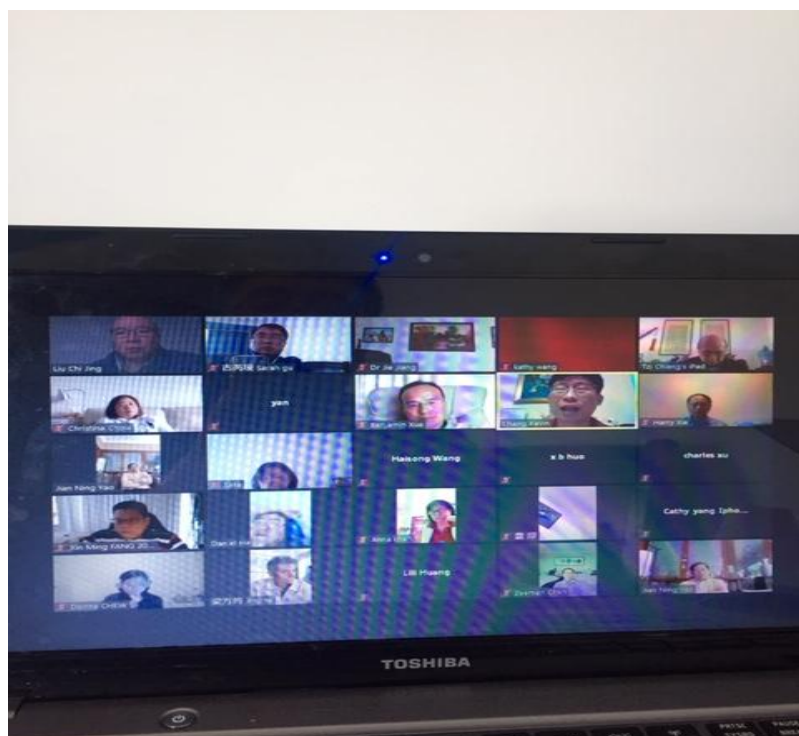
Newsletter 2020

Dear FCMA members,

This Newsletter will inform you about the recent 8th FCMA Assembly and the 9th FCMA Board meeting as well as other issues.

Please read the newsletter and its attachments carefully.

1. The 8th FCMA Assembly and the 9th FCMA Board meeting (the Federation) was successfully held online on October 11th 2020 to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Chi Jing Liu, (Secretary-General of the Federation), and attended by the Directors from the Board, committee members of each branch including VIC, NSW, SA, WA and ACT, and staff of the Federation's secretariat.



Screenshot: Zoom meeting on October 11th 2020

Tzi Chiang Lin, President of FCMA, presented the Annual President Report (Attachment 1).

Kevin Chang from New South Wales, Sherman Gu from Victoria, Songyun He from Queensland, Fang Liang from South Australia, Qin Wang from Western Australia and Haisong Wang from Australian Capital Territory reported the progress of each of the branch's affairs respectively.

Chi Jing Liu, Secretary-General of FCMA, presented a report of the FCMA Secretariat (Attachment 2)

Lawrence Yao, Treasurer of FCMA, provided a financial report.

Sherman Gu, Executive officer of FCMA, reported drafting of a jointed application for legal access to Zhi Fu Zi and requested inclusion of registered acupuncturists to the Medicare system.

All attendees in the meeting discussed the feasibility of using the online platform (Zoom) to carry out CPD and other academic exchanges. All present agreed to reduce the membership fee for 2020-2021 in response to the reduction of income due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Renewal of FCMA membership in 2020

This year's membership renewal process has begun. Members must prepare all documents before due date and submit documents and payments in accordance with the membership renewal form. Although the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA) does not require CPD hours this year, however the private health funds do not exempt the 20-hour CPD. Therefore, members please carefully fill in the CPD record card in English in order to maintain your private health funds provider status.

3. Renewal of CMBA registration

The renewal of the CMBA registration this year has begun. Practicing Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, and Chinese herbal medicine dispensers must complete the relevant renewal procedures before 30/11/2020, and submit the electronic version of the latest registration certificate together with other renewal documents to the Federation.

Thank you all

Prepared and compiled by the FCMA Secretariat

December 1st 2020

Enclosure

Annual President Report

(2019-2020)

The 8th National Assembly and the 9th FCMA Board online meeting

Greetings to all FCMA members!

To the branch Presidents, Directors of the FCMA Board and all members of FCMA:

Annually, on October 11th the "World Chinese Medicine Day", established by representatives of various countries at "The 15th World Congress of Chinese Medicine" held in Rome in 2018 by the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies to encourage and promote Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture around the world.

The FCMA annual national Assembly and Board meeting coincided with this day so therefore let us recognise and honour our outstanding Chinese medicine practitioners.

The Global anti-pandemic Chinese medicine action. During the year, under the influence of such a severe COVID-19 pandemic, we have maintained our professionalism and moved forward by holding many online academic activities.

1) Firstly , on behalf of the Federation, I would like to thank Kevin Chang, President of FCMA-NSW, Songyun He, President of FCMA-QLD, Fang Liang, President of FCMA-SA, Qin Wang, President of FCMA-WA and Haisong Wang, President of FCMA-ACT and all the Presidents leading teams. It is your outstanding leadership talent that unites the Federation.

2) Secondly, thank you to Chi Jing Liu, the Secretary-General of FCMA and Donna Chew, the Secretary of FCMA, for their outstanding work.

3) Thank you to Sherman Gu, Executive Officer of FCMA, for his excellent work, and for constantly tracking the government's new policies during the pandemic.

4) Thank you Lawrence Yao, the Treasurer of FCMA, for his hard work in financial management and the concerted efforts of the board of directors and supervisors across the country to overcome the financial difficulties of the Association.

5) Thank you to Yanyi Wang, Executive Editor of the Australian Journal of the Chinese Medicine and Science (The official journal of FCMA), for editing the Australian version of the World Journal of Chinese Medicine around the clock, and for organising many academic activities.

I will report our 2019-2020 annual activities as follows:

1. As we are aware, the coronavirus affected many globally in relation to both a personal and working level.
2. During this time FCMA (referred to below as “the Federation”) has continued to maintain the rights and interests of not only members but also colleagues in the Australian Chinese profession.

On March 13th 2020, on behalf of the Federation, I represented the federation and arranged a meeting with Mr Michael Sukkar, Assistant to the Federal Treasurer (Deputy Minister), to discuss the proposal of the inclusion of Chinese medicine in the Medicare system.

I discussed the following with Mr. Sukkar: FCMA’s submission to the Federal Minister of Health and requesting a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of the Federal Ministry of Health in 2018 and 2019. Respectively, requesting that Chinese medicine, (including acupuncture), be included in the "Chronic Diseases Management" CDM. Another item of discussion that a uniform Medicare number issued to registered Chinese medicine practitioners to facilitate with the rebate of TCM acupuncture expenses for people who have purchased private health insurance. This matter is yet to be resolved. Mr. Sukkar recorded our requests and said that will arrange a meeting with the Federal Minister of Health to discuss the matter. Subsequently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in Australia, the meeting with the Federal Minister of Health was put aside.

3. The Secretariat of the Federation has put forward drafting documents of the following:
 - 3.1. In coordination with the four Chinese Medicine associations a joint application was forwarded to the TGA to request an amendment of the current Poison Standards and to allow registered Chinese herbal medicine practitioners and Registered Chinese medicine dispensers to legally prescribe and use Zhi Fu Zi. (This application was submitted on 4th November 2020).
 - 3.2. Drafting a request to the Federal Government Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) to review the current Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) on acupuncture rebate programs and to allow registered acupuncturists to enter the MBS. At present, the drafting document is basically completed and we’re awaiting a suitable opportunity to submit to the relevant departments.
 - 3.3. Promptly drafted notices on the precautions for practicing during the COVID-19 outbreak, disease prevention and control guidelines, and relevant laws and regulations.
 - 3.4. On February 1st, 2020, the Federation preceded in issuing "Notice on the "New Coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease" (2019-nCoV Acute Respiratory Disease), to members in both Chinese and English.
 - 3.5. On February 3rd, 2020, I issued an official letter to the then CMO of the Federal Ministry of Health, requesting that surgical masks be provided to frontline practitioners of Chinese medicine. As the pandemic continued to worsen, we released a "Notice Update" in both Chinese and English on March 17th, 2020. After

the second outbreak of the Victorian pandemic, the executive officer of FCMA repeatedly checked and reviewed on the government information and communicated with the CEOs of other societies through Wechat and E-mails, and it provided Victorian members with the latest government guidance in a timely manner (when most urgent, the information was updated multiple times in half a day). I also urgently negotiated with relevant politicians overnight, requesting that our Chinese medicine profession should be allowed to practice independently under Stage 4 Restrictions, instead of the requirement of referrals from a GP to receive Chinese medicine acupuncture treatment. Secretary-General Chijing Liu reported on other actions of the secretariat.

4. On March 4th, 2020, the executive officer Sherman Gu and the Federation's journal editor-in-chief Yanyi Wang attended the meeting in regards of "Alternative therapy providers and private health insurance" CPD training template organised by ARHG. The template will be officially launched next month; members can purchase and study it by themselves.
5. On April 16th, 2020, Sherman Gu and Donna Chew, the secretary of FCMA, attended the second joint meeting of CMBA and Chinese Medical Associations online. At the meeting, we proposed to request CMBA to reduce the registration fee in view of the reduction in income of members due to the social restrictions after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were pleased to learn that the registration fee for 2020-2021 will be reduced by 15%. At the joint meeting, CMBA stated that they were unable to prepare endorsement to allow registered Chinese medicine practitioners to legally use Zhi Fu Zi (processed Aconite), Ephedra and other listed Chinese medicines through CMBA endorsement. After the meeting, we took the initiative to establish a joint working group composed of the four Chinese medicine associations, and attempt to help registered Chinese medicine practitioners to legally use Zhi Fu Zi, by applying for a new schedule directly to the TGA. After the establishment of the joint working group, the participating members of each society have been accomplishing positively well. On June 26th, 2020, Donna Chew attended the online conference on June 26th, 2020 on behalf of the Federation with ARHG.
6. On August 27th, 2020, Sherman Gu, Donna Chew and I attended an online webinar hosted by MSAC. At the meeting, Sherman and I separately asked questions about the inclusion of registered acupuncturists to the Medicare system. The host acknowledged these questions and stated that they would be forwarded to the Federal Ministry of Health for reply.
7. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Federation couldn't hold face-to-face academic lectures and academic exchange activities after March this year. However, each branch still held several online seminars and WeChat lectures to meet the CPD requirements of members. In the future, we can also connect such online CPD activities from the state branch to the whole federation to make full use of precious human and knowledge resources.

8. The FCMA official journal "Australian Journal of Chinese Medicine and Science" (co-editorial of the World Chinese Medicine Journal Australian edition) jointly published by the FCMA and the Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies has been successfully published for 2017, 2018 and 2019 editions. The 2020 edition has been compiled, due to the current situation; we plan to issue only the electronic version.
9. On December 1st, 2019, on the first day of the business year, Chi Jing Liu and I went to Perth to preside over and witness the committee re-election work of the Western Australia branch. This trip received sponsor from the South Australian branch which reflected the spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance of the Federation.

The above mentioned is the work that was carried out by the Federation this year. Although we have achieved certain results in our affairs, we still face many difficulties and challenges. We proceed to maintain a team effort within our association and endure with strength and professionalism to encourage more physicians into our Federation.

Thank you for your attention.

Tzi Chiang Lin, PhD

President of FCMA

October 11th 2020

Attachment 2

FCMA Secretariat Report (2019-2020)

1. Completed membership renewals of the 2019-2020 period (November 2019-March 2020).
2. From November 2019, we have responded to approximately 3,000 emails from members. During the 2020 renewal period (November 2019-end of February 2020), approximately 1,700 emails were answered with an average of 20-30 emails per business day.
3. Approximately 400 calls were answered throughout the year (July 20, 2019-July 19, 2020), of which more than 200 were answered during the renewal period of the year 2020 (November 2019-late March 2020).
4. Processing of postal renewal documents (scanning, inputting and filing).
5. Replied to various inquiries from members/ potential applicants who were interested in joining by mail and/or by telephone.

6. Resolved issues regarding member's provider numbers.
7. Assisted members in applying for HICAPS and issuing membership certificates.
8. Liaised daily with private health funds: to verify memberships, provide membership documents, and implementing private health funds' policies relating to provider status.
9. Assisted in providing media information and arrange interviews.
10. According to the patient's request, provided the members' practicing contact details.
11. Assisted relevant authorities (police) to investigate professional issues.
12. Completed Medibank audit (February 2020)/ARHG audit (September 2020).
13. Monthly reporting of private insurance company rebate number applications.
14. Completed the review of the membership of new members/submitting member information to private health funds for eligibility of provider status.
15. Continuously forwarded updated policies and relayed information to relevant authorities/AHPRA/CMBA) and private health funds during the COVID-19 pandemic.
16. Provided learning resources for members through online platforms and emails during COVID-19 pandemic.
17. Drafted submissions (see the "Annual President Report ").

Thank you for your attention.

Chi Jing Liu, JP

Secretary-General, FCMA

October 11th 2020