

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### General Application and Evidence Requirements Questions

#### General Application Questions

##### **What is a new graduate?**

A new graduate is a person who is commencing health practice for the first time after graduating and is applying for registration within 2 years of graduating.

##### **If I have already had a VETASSESS verification of the authenticity of my Chinese qualifications will it still need to be sent to China for further checking?**

No. Applicants who have a 'vetassess' "qualifications verification"<sup>1</sup> report on a Chinese qualification do not need to have their qualifications sent to SATCM.

##### **Am I qualified for registration under the National Law if I was previously registered under the Victorian legislation?**

Yes (per section 53(d) of the National Law). Please contact the Victorian Board and obtain a "Statement of Registration". Please note, you will still have to meet the "suitability" requirements under the National Law (see Section G of the application form).

##### **What practice and competence evidence can I submit if I am a Chinese medicine academic?**

In the event that a Chinese medicine academic is relying on section 303(1)(c) of the National Law and is submitting practice and competence evidence, the following evidence will be considered:

##### **Practice Evidence**

- for persons who are currently teaching Chinese medicine, the Board will consider:
  - for evidence of practice, an employer statement specifying the dates of employment and the duties performed.
- for persons who are currently working as clinical supervisors, the Board will consider:
  - for evidence of practice, an employer statement that they have worked as a clinical supervisor in a teaching clinic for students enrolled in the programs

##### **Competence Evidence**

- for persons who are currently teaching Chinese medicine, the Board will consider:
  - an employer statement that they have either:

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<sup>1</sup> Different to equivalence assessment

- Supervised students in a teaching clinic; or
  - Taught relevant practical classes.
- for persons who are currently working as clinical supervisors, the Board will consider:
  - patient records that the applicant has countersigned in the teaching clinic.

## Chinese Herbal Dispensing Registration

### **Do I need to register as a Chinese herbal dispenser if I want to dispense or supply Chinese herbal product to patients?**

If you are registered as a Chinese herbal medicine practitioner, then on the spot dispensing of Chinese herbal medicines to your own patients is part of your normal Chinese herbal medicine practice; that is, you would not need to separately register for Chinese herbal dispensing in these circumstances. In addition, you are not required to be registered as a Chinese herbal dispenser in order to supply or sell TGA-listed product to your patients.

### **When do I need to register as a Chinese herbal dispenser?**

If you want to offer a discrete dispensing service to the public, for example, if you wish to dispense Chinese herbal prescriptions for third parties or advertise yourself as a dispenser of Chinese herbal medicines, then you will need to apply for registration in Chinese herbal dispensing. This arrangement is similar to the arrangement which applies with western medical practitioners and pharmacists.

## Advanced Diploma Courses – Evidence Requirements under s.303(1)(b)

### **If I am providing two years practice evidence as a substitute for satisfactory evidence regarding the clinical training under section 303(1)(b) what evidence is acceptable?**

You must provide 2 different pieces of evidence for each of the two years. The two years practice evidence is intended to be a substitute for satisfactory evidence regarding the clinical training. Therefore the following evidence of practice must be provided (relevant to each division you are applying in):

1. One piece of evidence per year from Schedule one of the grandparenting policy; and
2. 10 de-identified patient records per year, each of which shows:
  - (a) Date(s) of consultation;
  - (b) First name of patient only (or other non-identifying record of patient name, e.g. patient's initials);
  - (c) Presenting condition;
  - (d) Chinese medicine differential diagnosis;
  - (e) Record of treatment provided, being:

(i) for Acupuncturists: the design of an individualised acupuncture treatment plan.

This means an acupuncture/moxibustion point prescription that accords with the Chinese medicine diagnosis and demonstrates the application of principles of point selection as applied to the individual patient, and/or

(ii) for Chinese Herbal Medicine Practitioners: an individualised Chinese herbal medicine prescription, being a Chinese herbal prescription that accords with the Chinese medicine diagnosis and demonstrates the application of the principles of Chinese herbal medicine formulae construction as applied to the individual patient. The Chinese herbal medicine formulae can employ Chinese herbs in unprocessed or processed forms.

You must supply a **certified copy** of the original patient record/files and the original patient record/file must have been recorded at the time that you treated the patient (or immediately thereafter).

## Evidence Requirements for Specific Course Graduates

### Anglo-Dutch Institute for Oriental Medicine

#### Diploma of Traditional Chinese Acupuncture (completed on or before year 2000)

All applicants relying on this Diploma are requested to submit evidence of 2 years practice. See earlier section on Advanced Diploma Courses for details of required 2 years evidence of practice for section 303(1)(b) (Advanced Diploma) applications.

#### Post-graduate Diploma of Chinese Herbal Medicine

All applicants relying on this Diploma are requested to submit “5 years practice plus competence” evidence.

### Australian College of Natural Medicine (ACNM)

#### Diploma of Applied Science (Acupuncture) 1996 or earlier

All applicants relying on this ACNM Diploma are requested to submit evidence of 2 years practice. See earlier section on Advanced Diploma Courses for details of required 2 years evidence of practice for section 303(1)(b) (Advanced Diploma) applications.

Alternatively, you may submit evidence that your clinical training was:

- **structured** (that is, clinical learning designed to be progressive through the various stages of the program of learning, inclusive of a comprehensive range of clinical presentations that cover all the clinical areas),
- **directly supervised by practitioners with appropriate qualifications, clinical experience, and understanding of the curriculum and teaching requirements**
- **formally assessed** (formative and summative, addressing all clinical skills, against clear learning outcomes)

### Australian Institute of Applied Science (AIAS)

#### Advanced Diploma of Acupuncture

All applicants relying on this AIAS Advanced Diploma are requested to submit evidence of 2 years practice. See earlier section on Advanced Diploma Courses for details of required 2 years evidence of practice for section 303(1)(b) (Advanced Diploma) applications.

Alternatively, you may submit evidence that your clinical training was:

- **structured** (that is, clinical learning designed to be progressive through the various stages of the program of learning, inclusive of a comprehensive range of clinical presentations that cover all the clinical areas),
- **directly supervised by practitioners with appropriate qualifications, clinical experience, and understanding of the curriculum and teaching requirements**
- **formally assessed** (formative and summative, addressing all clinical skills, against clear learning outcomes)
- **for a minimum of 200 hours**

### **South Australian College of Natural and Traditional Medicine (SACNTM)**

#### **Diploma of Applied Science (Acupuncture) 1998 or earlier**

All applicants relying on this SACNTM Diploma are requested to submit “5 years practice plus competence” evidence.

### **Southern Cross University (SCU)**

#### **Masters of Acupuncture**

All applicants relying on this SCU Masters are requested to submit evidence of:

1. 2 years practice. See earlier section on Advanced Diploma Courses about details of required 2 years evidence of practice for section 303(1)(b) (Advanced Diploma) applications **and**
2. evidence of their undergraduate health qualification

As an alternative for the first item only, you may submit evidence that your clinical training was:

- **structured** (that is, clinical learning designed to be progressive through the various stages of the program of learning, inclusive of a comprehensive range of clinical presentations that cover all the clinical areas),
- **directly supervised by practitioners with appropriate qualifications, clinical experience, and understanding of the curriculum and teaching requirements**
- **formally assessed** (formative and summative, addressing all clinical skills, against clear learning outcomes)
- **for a minimum of 200 hours**

### **Evidence Requirements General**

#### **How do I certify electronic patient records as evidence?**

A certified copy of an electronic document which has been de-identified is acceptable. It is suggested you print out the patient records from your computer, de-identify the printout, then this becomes an original record. Please retain this with your own records and provide AHPRA with a certified copy of that document.

### **What if I am a Chinese medicine academic– what evidence can I use for practice and competence?**

For persons who are currently teaching Chinese medicine the Board will consider:

- for evidence of competence an employer statement that they have either:
  - supervised students in a student clinic
  - taught relevant practical classes
- for evidence of practice an employer statement as above specifying the dates

### **What if I am a Chinese medicine clinical supervisor – what evidence can I use for practice and competence?**

For persons who are currently working as clinical supervisors the Board will consider:

- for evidence of competence, patient records that the applicant has countersigned in the student clinic
- for evidence of practice an employer statement that they have worked as a clinical supervisor in a student clinic