



Communiqué

February 2018 meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content.

The February 2018 meeting was held face to face in the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne.

2018 planning discussed at February meeting

The Board met in February for its first meeting of the year and reviewed its planning for 2018. The Board will develop its regulatory plan in the coming weeks. There are a number of areas where the Board has already started work and/or is planning to begin work. The Board is anticipating a busy year.

Late applications accepted for National Board vacancies

Late applications for practitioner member vacancies on the Chiropractic Board will be accepted until 5pm AEDT on 9 March 2018.

The closing date has been extended to give registered practitioners a bit more time to express interest in being part of health practitioner regulation nationally. Chiropractors from Western Australia are especially encouraged to apply.

Triennial (three-yearly) recruitment rounds are an opportunity for Australian Health Ministers to consider reappointments and new appointments; so that National Boards have the best mix of experience, new and diverse views that will help inform their regulatory decision-making.

More information about the vacancies and how to apply is on the [AHPRA website](#).

Board member from South Australia welcomed as another is farewelled

The Board expressed gratitude for the efforts of outgoing member Dr Philip Donato OAM, who made a significant contribution to the Board's work throughout his terms of appointment. As the inaugural Chair of the National Board until September 2014 and as a practitioner member from South Australia until December 2018, his contribution has been seminal in all of the Board's achievements since the start of the National Scheme.

In December 2017 Health Ministers appointed Dr Arcady Turczynowicz as the new practitioner member from South Australia. The Board looks forward to working with Dr Turczynowicz as it continues its work of regulating the profession.

Last meeting for Executive Officer

The February 2018 meeting was the last meeting for outgoing Executive Officer Paul Fisher, who had held the role since 2011. The Board noted the enormous amount of work Paul has carried out on the Board's behalf over the years and thanked him for his efforts.

The Board welcomed its new Executive Officer Clarissa Martin as a guest at the meeting and looks forward to working with her in the future.

Advertising self-assessment tool now available

The Board is continuing to work with AHPRA to provide information that helps chiropractors understand their professional and legal obligations around advertising. A new self-assessment tool to help practitioners and advertisers check and correct their advertising so that it complies with the National Law is now available online.

The tool is easy to use and asks users to consider a number of questions about their advertising which can help them understand if it is in breach of the National Law. Advertisers' legal obligations are explained in the [Guidelines for advertising regulated health services](#).

The self-assessment tool is the latest in a series of [advertising resources](#) developed by AHPRA and National Boards. Advertising responsibly and within the law supports patients to receive accurate and reliable information about healthcare services that helps them make informed decisions about their healthcare choices.

The [self-assessment tool](#) is available in the *Advertising resources* section on the AHPRA website.

Successful prosecution of Queensland man for unlawful use of the title 'chiropractor'

Following an investigation, AHPRA successfully prosecuted a Queensland man for the unlawful use of the title 'chiropractor' and for holding out as a registered health practitioner. Mr George Zaphir was previously registered as chiropractor but failed to renew his registration.

On 30 January 2018, he pleaded guilty in the Caboolture Magistrates Court to two charges relating to unlawful use of the protected title 'chiropractor' and four charges related to holding out as a registered health practitioner (acupuncturist and chiropractor) and holding out as authorised or qualified to practise as a medical practitioner and as a chiropractor.

The charges related to statements made by Mr Zaphir to several people in March 2016, including comments that he was a doctor of integrated medicine and had an 85 per cent success rate in treating cancer. Pretending to be a registered health practitioner (holding out) is an offence under the National Law.

Mr Zaphir was fined \$12,000 and ordered to pay AHPRA's costs of \$3,537. In his sentencing remarks Magistrate Kinsella commented that the key objectives and purpose of the National Law are to protect the public to ensure that only those qualified and registered to provide health services do so.

The Board and AHPRA will continue to seek the strongest possible penalties under the National Law against anyone who falsely claims to be a registered chiropractor.

False declarations

When practitioners register or renew their registration they are asked to declare whether or not they comply with the requirements of the professional indemnity insurance arrangements, continuing professional development requirements and recency of practice requirements.

The Board would like to remind practitioners that they have an obligation to make truthful statements in relation to their compliance with these obligations. In cases where practitioners are found to have deliberately made a false declaration the Board may decide to refer them to the relevant tribunal where they may be found guilty of professional misconduct.

[Registration standards](#) are published on the Board's website.

Quarterly registration data

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia's chiropractic workforce.

The quarterly registration data from 1 October 2017 to 31 December 2017 for the chiropractic profession is published on the Board's website under [About the Board>Statistics](#). The report includes a number of statistical breakdowns about the demographics of the profession.

New research framework launched to improve patient safety

In January, National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) published a research framework to help transform health practitioner regulation to improve patient safety.

[A research framework for the National Scheme: Optimising our investment in research](#) sets out the research priorities and principles for National Boards and AHPRA to focus their research efforts.

The framework includes the priority research areas of: defining harms and risks related to the practice of regulated health professions, regulatory taxonomy or classification scheme, risk factors for complaints and/or poor practitioner performance, evidence for standards, codes and/or guidelines, evaluating regulatory interventions, stakeholder satisfaction and engagement, work readiness and workforce capacity and distribution.

It has been published to provide a solid base to facilitate risk-based research and evaluation activities, with a clear focus on translating the outcomes of research into initiatives that will inform regulatory policy development and decision-making to maximise the public benefit.

Update on the first ever National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy

AHPRA, the 15 National Boards responsible for regulating the health professions, accreditation authorities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy with the vision of: 'Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.'

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting, and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, are co-Chairs of the health strategy group. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group publish communiqués of its work. These are available on the [Advisory group page](#) of the AHPRA website.

This work is happening in conjunction with the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA.

The next meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group is scheduled for March 2018.

Are your contact details up-to-date?

It is important that your contact details are up-to-date to receive information from the Board. You can check your details via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website. Your email account needs to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to your account junk box.

Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

For more information or help with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Dr Wayne Minter AM

Chiropractor, Chair
Chiropractic Board of Australia

28 February 2018