



Communiqué

Ninth meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia: 23 June 2010

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. At the ninth meeting, on 23 June 2010, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme.

Mailout to registered Chiropractors

The Chiropractic Board of Australia has written to every registered Chiropractor since late April, to support the transition of all registrants into the national scheme. Some registrants who are registered in more than one jurisdiction may have received their letters only recently. If a registered Chiropractor has not yet received a letter, they should contact AHPRA on 1300 088 590 as soon as possible to ensure their safe transition to the national scheme.

National Call Centre

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has established a call centre to answer registrant questions about the national scheme. The call centre aims to ensure that registrants have access to information about the scheme and any changes that will affect practitioners under the National Law. The call centre number is 1300 088 590.

There is a range of detailed information on the Board's website published at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au. Registrants are encouraged to become familiar with the registration standards set by the Board and the expectations the Board has of registrants.

Operational readiness

AHPRA is working hard to ensure the systems and processes necessary to support national registration are in place on 1 July 2010. New offices have now been established in each State and Territory and staff training is now underway.

Registration standards

The Board has set Registration Standards that set out the Board's expectations of practitioners in a number of areas. These are published on the Board's website at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au. The Board expects all registered chiropractors to be familiar with and meet these standards.

Codes and Guidelines

The Board thanks the individuals and organisations that provided thoughtful feedback on the draft codes and guidelines circulated for consultation in recent months. Comments provided have shaped the final Codes and Guidelines, which will be published shortly on the Board's website.

The Board has released **today** a Board specific:

- Code of Conduct for Chiropractors; and
- Continuing Professional Development guideline.

Code of Conduct for Chiropractors

The Board has previously advised (16 April 2010 and 28 April 2010 Communiqués) that it has developed a revised Code of Conduct for Chiropractors, which provides a balance between the feedback provided from the consultation process and the Board's regulatory responsibility to protect the public.

The Code of Conduct for Chiropractors provides guidance consistent with other National Board guidance on professional expectations, supplemented by specific guidance for chiropractors that reflects the expertise and experience of State and Territory Boards in managing notifications from the public (complaints). Specific guidance, reflecting the lessons available to practitioners from the Boards' experience, includes:

- Public spinal screening
- Use of X-Rays
- Frequency and duration of care
- Informed consent including detail around financial management plans.

The Board consulted extensively with its stakeholders in developing this final code, including by hosting a targeted workshop on 29 May 2010. The Board received and reviewed more than 400 submissions, which are now published at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au

Registration Fees

The Board has set provisional national registration fees for 2010-2011. The final fees will be announced in July.

Dr Phillip Donato
Chiropractor
Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia
28 June 2010