



Communiqué

Tenth meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia 28 July 2010

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (National Law). At the tenth meeting, on 28 July 2010, the Board made its first decisions under the National Law as the legislation has now commenced operation in all jurisdictions (except Western Australia).

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The Board has recently published CPD Guidelines which require practitioners' formal learning activities to be assessed and approved by a Board-approved body (including quantum of hours). The Board has approved the Chiropractic Association of Australia (CAAN) and the Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia (COCA) as the approved bodies to assess and approve formal learning activities for CPD from 1 October 2010.

This change will **only apply from 1 October 2010**. Until 1 October 2010, the current processes for approving CPD programs continue unchanged. The Board will release more details about the new assessment process closer to 1 October.

First aid requirements

The Board's CPD requirements include a Senior First Aid Certificate, which is in addition to CPD points. The Board will require chiropractors to declare compliance with the CPD registration standard on renewal of registration after their first full year of registration under the national scheme (i.e November 2011). This is the time that practising chiropractors must hold a valid Senior First Aid Certificate.

Information on Board's website

The Board is progressively publishing information on its website at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au and updating Fact Sheets and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). Chiropractors are encouraged to check the website regularly for updates and new information.

All of the Board's registration standards and guidelines are available on the website, as well as additional explanatory information. The Board aims to have important information easily accessible on its website, so that chiropractors can find answers to their questions.

The FAQs in relation to the Code of Conduct for Chiropractors now clarify the requirements for using financial plans, and pre-paid fee contracts and immunisations. The Board noted that there was considerable confusion about the need for immunisation. The Code states that good practice involves a chiropractor having an understanding of the principles of immunisation against communicable disease. It does not require chiropractors to be immunised.

Chiropractors practising in Western Australia

Chiropractors who have transitioned to the national scheme are now able to practise chiropractic across Australia (except Western Australia) through one registration. Western Australia has indicated it will join the scheme later in 2010. Anyone wishing to practise in that state until then must register with the WA Board. Similarly, a chiropractor from Western Australia who wishes to practise in other parts of Australia must register with the Chiropractic Board of Australia.

Application forms are available on the Board's website.

Contacting all practitioners

The Board intends to communicate with all practitioners and other stakeholders regularly, ideally by email. To facilitate this, the Board is collecting email addresses from registered chiropractors.

As part of the transition to national registration, AHPRA is writing to all registered practitioners to provide new registration numbers, a user ID and password so they can login and update their personal details. When practitioners receive this information, please log in and add your email address to your contact details, so we can communicate with you regularly.

Board presentations

Board members have offered to make presentations at upcoming professional events, to provide an opportunity for chiropractors to ask questions about the national registration and accreditation scheme. More details will be provided when presentations are scheduled.

Consultation update

The Board is developing consultation guidelines to explain how it will approach future consultation processes. The consultation guidelines will be published on the Board's website in the coming months.

The Board is also expecting to release a consultation paper on limited registration for teaching and research and limited registration in the public interest later in August 2010. There will be an eight week period for comments on the consultation paper.

Dr Phillip Donato
Chiropractor
Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia
11 August 2010