



Communiqué

Sixth meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia 22 March 2010

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. At the sixth meeting, on 22 March 2010, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme.

Registration transition arrangements

The Board is planning to write to every registered chiropractor in late April 2010, to support the transition of all registrants to the national scheme. The letter will explain each practitioner's registration from 1 July 2010 and will detail the information that will appear on the online national Register of Chiropractors. The Board is urging all practitioners to ensure the contact details held by their current State or Territory Board are accurate and up to date before 30 June 2010.

The Board has made a range of decisions about the registration transition process. In general, chiropractors will transition to the type of registration that matches their current registration. Please check the registration information provided to you in the April letter and provide feedback to AHPRA if there are any errors.

Conditions, undertakings and reprimands on the Register

The National Law requires the Board to publish conditions imposed and undertakings accepted from chiropractors on the Register of Chiropractors. However, the National Law also allows the Board to decide to not record a condition imposed or an undertaking accepted when the practitioner has an impairment, if it is necessary to protect the practitioner's privacy and there is not an overriding public interest for the condition or the details of the undertaking to be recorded.

Proof of identity

The Board approved an approach for authenticating the identity of an individual who applies for registration. This approach relies on a 100-point check, consistent with the Attorney General's standard. It applies to all new applications for registration from 1 July 2010. The Board will require applicants for registration to have their documents certified by an Authorised Officer. A list of class of persons that are Authorised Officers will be published.

State and Territory board structures and delegations

The key responsibilities of the Board are to develop registration standards, codes and guidelines, approve accreditation standards and programs of study, determine eligibility for registration, managed notifications made to the Board and negotiate the health professions agreement which determine funding and service arrangements with AHPRA.

As previously advised, the Board has agreed not to have State and Territory Boards. The Board recognises the importance to retain the experience and expertise of practitioners and community representatives who are members of the State and Territory boards and also those who support the State and Territory boards by serving on panels.

The Board will write to all current State and Territory board members to thank them for their ongoing support in the transition to the national scheme and encourage their continued role in the scheme after 1 July 2010 through serving on committees of the Board and through being available to the Board to serve on panels.

In addition, the Board is in the process of finalising the matters it will delegate to committees and panels of the Board and to AHPRA.

Budget

The Board is in the process of finalising its decisions in relation to the Health Professions Agreement with AHPRA. This will include funding allocation for the appointed accreditation authority for the Board; the Chiropractic Council on Education Australasia.

Registration Standards, codes and guidelines

The Board noted that the following codes and guidelines have been released for public consultation period **ending on 7 April 2010**:

- Mandatory Notifications
- Advertising
- Conduct
- Practice
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

It is acknowledged that the timeframe for consultation is tight; however these are apparent for all of the national boards and are necessary to ensure that procedures are established to allow for implementation on 1 July 2010. The Board values the comments it receives through the consultation process.

In addition, the Board noted that the Ministerial Council has considered the Registration Standards submitted by all of the Boards for approval and an announcement of the Council's decision is anticipated in the near future.

The Board notes the enquiries it has received in relation to the CPD Registration Standard. The requirement of this Standard is that practitioners must engage in CPD from 1 July 2010. The Board will require practitioners to retain proof that they have complied with the CPD requirements for each period of renewal of registration. The Board will conduct audits of practitioner's compliance with the CPD requirements after twelve months operation of the National Law. Practitioners should review the registration standard and the guideline to ensure they fully understand their obligations.

Communications

The Board agreed to a communications plan to ensure that information on an ongoing basis is provided to registrants and to key stakeholders.

Conclusion

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank the stakeholders involved in a number of effective meetings which have taken place in recent weeks. These meetings have provided excellent opportunity to discuss issues and work together to support the transition to the national scheme.

Dr Phillip Donato
Chair, Chiropractors Board of Australia
9 April 2010