



Communiqué

Seventh meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia 28 April 2010

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*. At the seventh meeting, on 28 April 2010, the Board made decisions about a range of matters that will impact on the transition to the national registration and accreditation scheme.

April Mail-Out

The Board has sent a letter and a two-part form to all registrants which should be received in the next week. The Board urges all chiropractors to read this carefully. It 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 letter will ask practitioners to do three things:

- Read Part 1 of the form to make sure their contact details with their current Board are up to date. Update these as necessary with existing State and Territory Boards
- Read Part 2 of the form to make sure there are no errors in the registration information proposed for each practitioner from 1 July and provide feedback as detailed on the form
- Go to www.chiropracticboard.gov.au to become familiar with the new obligations for all practitioners from 1 July 2010.

Registration transition

The Board noted that chiropractors with registration ending on 30 June 2010 will have to re-register under the national scheme if they have not renewed their registration before 30 June 2010.

The Board encourages all registrants, with a registration period end date of 30 June 2010, to renew their registration (when possible) before 30 June 2010 with their State or Territory Board. This will allow a smooth transition to the national scheme.

Please contact your local State and Territory Board for details of your renewal requirements.

The Board will initiate a fast track re-registration process from 1 July 2010 for those registrants due to, but unable to complete re-registration before 30 June 2010 and whose State or Territory legislation allows a grace period for renewal of registration. This will ensure these registrants are not disadvantaged. The fast track re-registration process will only be in place for a limited time.

Registration Standards

The Board noted that the Ministerial Council has approved the Registration Standards submitted by the Board. These Registration Standards are now published on the Board's website at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au

Codes and guidelines

The Board received more than 200 submissions about the draft Codes and Guidelines circulated for consultation in March 2010. The Board thanks everyone who provided comment for participating in this important consultation process.

The Board has now considered the feedback and noted the specific concerns raised in relation to the Code of Practice. Key themes in the feedback included the limited consultation time, the tone of the Code, the level of detail and the relative purpose of the Code of Conduct and the Code of Practice.

The Board has developed a refined single Code of Conduct for Chiropractors, based on the common draft Code of Conduct with some elements of the draft Code of Practice. The refined draft Code of Conduct for Chiropractors provides a balance between the feedback provided in the consultation process and the Board's regulatory responsibility to protect the public.

The revised draft Code of Conduct for Chiropractors was released on the Board's website for further comment on 7 May 2010. The Board must ensure a final Code of Conduct for Chiropractors is in place by 1 July 2010. As a result, the consultation period will again be limited and comments will be required by **Friday 21 May 2010**. The Board encourages all interested practitioners to participate in the next consultation phase.

The Board has considered the feedback in relation to some of the other guidelines released for consultation (Mandatory Notifications, Advertising and Continuing Professional Development). These guidelines will be revised as necessary, approved and released on the Board's website over May and early June.

State and Territory board structures and delegations

The Board would like to reiterate its thanks to existing State and Territory Board members for their ongoing work and commitment to ensuring a smooth transition to the national scheme. The Board is interested in hearing from existing Board members interested in participating on panels which the National Board may establish under the National Law. Interested current Board members are encouraged to forward an expression of interest to the Chiropractic Board of Australia's Executive Officer, Tanya Vogt, at tanya.vogt@ahpra.gov.au

Dr Phillip Donato
Chiropractor
Chair, Chiropractors Board of Australia
10 May 2010