



Communiqué

Eighteenth meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia 29 April 2011

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (National Law) as enacted in each state and territory.

This communiqué highlights key issues from the Board's last meeting. At each meeting, the Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

CPD Update

In response to concerns and queries raised by practitioners, the Board has agreed to an amended set of criteria for the assessment of formal learning. The Board hopes that this amended document will be clearer and more informative to practitioners, CPD providers and CPD assessors. The new criteria can be viewed at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx.

Practitioners who are renewing should note the Board's position on continuing professional development (CPD). Registered practitioners should be engaging in CPD activities as described by the Board on a regular and ongoing basis as part of their professional commitment to lifelong learning.

The Board is phasing in its CPD requirements. When chiropractors renew in the first year of the national scheme, they do not have to declare that they have met the requirements for 25 hours CPD and a current senior first aid certificate. Instead, chiropractors will be asked to declare that they intend to meet the first aid and pro rata CPD requirements during the period of registration until they next renew.

The Board is also providing chiropractors with extra time to complete the CPD requirements during the first renewal period. Chiropractors will be able to count CPD hours completed between 1 July 2010 and 30 November 2011 towards their declaration of compliance for the period up to 30 November 2011. In future years, chiropractors will need to meet the requirements during the 12-month annual registration period.

Chiropractors will need to hold a current first aid certificate when they renew for the period 1 December 2011 to 30 November 2012. Practitioners should also note that First Aid Courses **do not** count as formal learning hours and are an additional requirement as expressed by the CPD Registration Standard and Guidelines.

Student Register

The Board noted that there are now more than 80,000 registered students who are part of the National Scheme.

The Student Register was established through data provided by education providers to AHPRA, and all chiropractic students will now be registered from the first year of their course. Under the National Law, the Student Register is not public.

The role of the Chiropractic Board of Australia in relation to students is limited to student health impairment matters or when there is a criminal conviction of a serious nature, either of which may adversely impact on public safety. The Board has no role to play in the academic progress or conduct of students, which continues to be a core responsibility of educational providers.

The definition of education providers under the National Law is broad. It not only includes education providers delivering Board approved programs of study leading to registration but also includes education providers, health services and other organisations or individuals that provide clinical experience placements for persons who are not enrolled in a Board approved program of study leading to registration, and do not hold registration in Australia in the profession in which they are undertaking the clinical experience placement. This includes students from overseas.

More detail on student registration and the implications for students and education providers is published at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Student-Registrations.aspx.

Notifications and Registration

The Board noted that WA and NSW chiropractors will shortly be receiving reminders to renew their registration in the mail. Practitioners are reminded to renew their registration early. For the time being chiropractors are not yet able to renew online as there are additional requirements not yet available via the online system,.

Limited registration

The Board is reviewing its proposed registration standard for Limited Registration, based on feedback provided in consultation to date. A revised standard will be published on the Board's website for further stakeholder feedback shortly. Practitioners are encouraged to refer to the website for updates on Policy and Guidelines.

Experts, mentors and panel members

The Board continues to work on matters and criteria regarding experts and mentors to support the professional development of registered practitioners. The Board hopes to finalise matters in relation to this initial set of lists in the next few months.

Practitioner Survey

As the Board approaches its first 12 months in the National Scheme, it will be conducting a practitioner survey about a number of issues that relate to the registration and regulation of chiropractors. The Board will be formally requesting the support and co-operation of the profession in completing this survey as the data obtained will be of great assistance to the Board in refining and enhancing its current regulatory approaches and in developing new ones.

Next Meeting

The Chiropractic Board of Australia will be meeting in NSW in June. This visit will create the opportunity for the Board to meet with a number of important stakeholders in NSW and to meet with the NSW Chiropractic Council.

Dr Phillip Donato
Chiropractor
Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia
5 May 2011