



Communiqué

Meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia held on 24 February 2012

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the National Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (National Law). The February 2012 meeting of the National Board was held on 24 February 2012 at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne. This meeting was the second meeting to be held for 2012.

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.

The Board noted, with regret, the resignation of Mr Peter Groves from the Board. The Board wishes Peter all the best in his future endeavours and thanked him for his work and commitment over the past 29 months.

Renewal of registration

The Board noted that over 96% of practitioners had renewed their registration by the 31 December cut off. Over 75% of those renewed online which was an outstanding success.

Those practitioners who have not renewed must submit a new application for registration and have that approved before they can commence practice.

The next registration renewal date for chiropractors is 30 November 2012, which is the ongoing annual renewal date. Practitioners are encouraged to make sure they keep their contact details up to date, including providing a valid email address, to receive registration reminders from AHPRA.

Updating contact information

Chiropractors should check their contact details and update them if necessary to receive regular reminders from the Board and AHPRA. Email accounts should be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to a 'junk email' box or account.

Practitioners who have not yet provided AHPRA or the Board with their email contact information, are encouraged to do so as a matter of urgency.

Practitioners seeking to update their contact information should, go to www.ahpra.gov.au, click online services, use their unique contact number (User ID) and follow the prompts. The User ID is not the same as a registration number. Practitioners

who do not have a User ID should complete an online enquiry form, selecting 'User ID' as the category of enquiry or by calling 1300 419 495.

Registration Data

Now that the renewal process is complete, accurate national data is available about registered Chiropractors in Australia.

As an overview, there are 4,287 registered Chiropractors in Australia, most of which are located in NSW and Victoria. Just under 65% of chiropractors are male and just over 35% are female. Most practitioners (around 33%) are aged between 31 and 40 years of age.

A more detailed analysis of registration data will be posted on the Board's website in coming weeks.

Publications

The Board hopes to release a number of fact sheets over the next few weeks, including:

- *Who needs to be registered?*
- *Becoming a registered Chiropractor?*
- *What is expected of a Chiropractor?*

The Board is also working on guidelines in relation to record keeping and the use of social media. The Board anticipates commencing consultation on these documents in the coming weeks.

The Board's second newsletter will also be published in the coming weeks.

Workplan

The Board has almost finalised its workplan for 2012. Reviews of the Board's registration standards is set down for later this year, and members of the profession and the public are welcome to make submissions as part of that process.

Advice about such reviews and the opportunities to make submissions will be posted on the Board's website under the *Consultations* tab at the appropriate time.

Code of Conduct Review

The Board will shortly commence the stakeholder and public consultation phases of their review of the *Code of Conduct*. As part of this, a forum will be held towards the end of April (by invitation) for key stakeholders to discuss the revised code. It is hoped that the final version of the document will be released sometime after midyear.

Registration applications now open for four more professions

Registration applications are now open for practitioners in the four professions joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) in July.

From 1 July 2012, the following professions must be registered with their National Board to practise anywhere in Australia:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
- Chinese medicine practitioners¹
- Medical radiation practitioners and
- Occupational therapists.

Registration application forms for practitioners in these professions who intend to practise after 1 July are published on each National Board website through www.ahpra.gov.au.

The National Board encourages practitioners to help spread this important message and refer anyone with questions about this to the website.

Board Appointments

In accordance with the provisions of the National Law, advertisements were sent out by AHPRA seeking applications for appointments to the Board. These applications closed on Friday 2 March 2012.

Applications received will be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Ministerial Council with a view to making appointments to commence in September 2012

Further information

Further information about the Board can be found on the Board's website at: www.chiropracticboard.gov.au and practitioners are encouraged to refer to the site for news and updates on Policy and Guidelines affecting their profession. The Board reminds practitioners to make sure the contact details they have given to AHPRA are up to date and include a current email address so they can receive important updates, such as renewal reminders.

Dr Phillip Donato
Chiropractor
Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia
February 2012

¹ Including Chinese medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, oriental medicine practitioners and Chinese herbal dispensers