



Communiqué

The April meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 20 April 2012 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) Office in Melbourne. This communiqué highlights key issues from this 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 publishes this communiqué on its website and emails it to a broad range of stakeholders. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in the work of the Board.

Code of Conduct

The Board has commenced the preliminary consultation phase in relation to the revised *Code of Conduct for Chiropractors*. Consultation feedback is currently being received from government and national stakeholders. A forum will be held on 21 April 2012 to discuss the code with these stakeholders. The Board will then further revise the code and release it for consultation by the profession and the public. The Board will publish the consultation on its website and interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback.

Clinical Record Keeping

The Board notes that clinical record keeping is a consistent theme amongst matters under investigation. The Board notes that other Boards in the National Scheme have produced guidance for their registrants in this area and will commence a project to do the same. The Board is anticipating releasing guidelines for consultation in the next month or two.

Advertising

The Board notes there is still a number of practitioners using marketing and advertising that advertise special and time limited offers that are not in accordance the requirements of the National Law and/or the guidance provided by the Board. Practitioners should note that they are responsible for any marketing and advertising material and are liable for its content.

Business Planning

The Board has finalised its business planning, workplan and budget preparations for the 2012/2013 year. It is anticipated that the 2012/2013 financial year will see a significant amount of work done towards the scheduled review of the Board's accreditation standards.

Social Media

The Boards of several health professions have been very conscious of the difficulties social media may create for practitioners, and have been working together to develop policy in this area. The Board hopes to commence consultation on this as a guideline for practitioners over the next few months, which will help guide practitioners in this area so that they can still maintain professional standards for conduct and performance.

Service Charter

The Board notes and supports AHPRA in its development of a service charter. The Service Charter AHPRA is developing will be important in documenting the values that guide AHPRA, the standards of service that practitioners can expect and the steps practitioners can take if these standards are not met.

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 practitioner
- Chinese medicine practitioner¹
- Medical radiation practitioner, and
- Occupational therapist.

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 chiropractors to help spread this important message and to refer anyone with questions to the website.

Conclusion

The Board publishes a range of information about registration and the Board's expectations of practitioners on its website at www.chiropracticboard.gov.au or www.ahpra.gov.au.

For more details or with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Dr Phillip Donato

Chiropractor
Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia
20 April 2012

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