



Communiqué

The May meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 25 May 2012 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) National 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 completed the preliminary consultation phase in relation to the revised *Code of Conduct for Chiropractors*. In the next few weeks the code will be released for consultation with both the profession and members of the public. Those interested should keep an eye out for the consultation document on the Board's website under *News>Current consultations* (www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/News/Current-Consultations.aspx)

Clinical Record Keeping

The Board will shortly commence preliminary consultation on *Guidelines for Clinical Record Keeping*. The Board notes that poor record keeping is a significant factor in many notifications and there have been requests from the profession for more guidance in this area.

Acupuncture

The Board notes that as of 1 July it will be an offence under the National Law for any chiropractor to use the title 'Acupuncturist' unless they are either registered with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia as an Acupuncturist or endorsed to practice Acupuncture by the Chiropractic Board of Australia. The Board is still developing policy in this area and the profession will be advised as soon as information becomes available. In the interim, practitioners who do not have an endorsement to use the title 'Acupuncturist' and who wish to use that title may wish to consider the grand-parenting pathway offered by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia. For more information, please go to www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au.

Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards

Two representatives of the Board attended and presented at the Annual Conference of the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards in San Antonio, Texas. The presentations made by the Board were well received and much information was shared with other Chiropractic regulators from all over the world.

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.

English Language Skills Registration Standard

The National Boards have committed to reviewing their registration standards at least every three years. By mid 2013, the National Scheme will be three years old, which will trigger a review of the standards that have been in place since the start of the scheme. In preparation, National Boards and AHPRA have commissioned research on English language skills testing, including the scope of exemptions from testing requirements. This research will inform the review of English Language Skills Registration Standards in 2013. The research evidence and other information from the review will be shared with the four professions joining the Scheme on 1 July 2012 so that they can consider any implications for their registration standards. The existing standard was based on the approach of state and territory registration boards before July 2010, and informed by the consultation process that supported its development. The National Boards will consult on any changes to the English language skills registration standard in 2013

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 detail or with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHRPA on 1300 419 495.

Dr Phillip Donato

Chiropractor

Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia

31 May 2012

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