

## Communiqué

The June meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 29 June 2012 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) NSW Office in Sydney. 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.

### Fees

The Board's registration fee for 2012-13 has been set (with a rebate for practitioners whose principal place of practice is NSW). The new fee represents an increase of less than the current CPI of 1.6%. The annual renewal fee will apply from 1 July 2012 and covers the 1 December 2012 to 30 November 2013 registration period for most practitioners.

A rebate exists for NSW practitioners as NSW is a co-regulatory jurisdiction. This means that while the National Boards and AHPRA have the responsibility to manage the registration and notification process in Australia in relation to practitioner conduct, health and performance, there is an exception in NSW by law, whereby the notification component is managed by the Chiropractic Council of New South Wales and the Health Care Complaints Commission working in tandem.

The notional rebate reflects the NSW government contribution to the Health Care Complaints Commission.

The fees set by the Board will be published on the Board's website ([www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Registration/Fees.aspx](http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Registration/Fees.aspx)) and are effective from 1 July 2012.

### Health profession agreement

The Board has finalised its budget for 2012-13 and approved the Health Professions Agreement (HPA) with AHPRA at the meeting in June 2012. The HPA sets out the services that AHPRA will provide in supporting the Board to regulate the chiropractic profession. The Board intends to publish the HPA on its website in coming months. The HPA includes details of fees set by the Board including fees for registrants (see above).

### Management of practitioners infected with blood-borne viruses

In February 2012, the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) endorsed guidelines on the management of healthcare workers (HCWs) with blood-borne viruses (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV) that were developed by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA). The guidelines are published at the Department of Health Ageing Website at:

[www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/E28B5CC8872BE9C5CA2572EC000829EE/\\$File/Guidelines-BBV-feb12.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/E28B5CC8872BE9C5CA2572EC000829EE/$File/Guidelines-BBV-feb12.pdf)

The guidelines contain useful information to guide HCWs with blood-borne viruses and their treating practitioners on safe scopes of practice. They define the circumstances when HCWs should not be performing exposure prone procedures. They are also explicit that HCWs infected with BBVs can continue to practise their profession if they do not perform exposure prone procedures and if they have no other co-morbidities that may affect safe practice.

The Board is participating in cross-profession work to develop guidelines on the management of practitioners with BBVs, based on the CDNA guidelines but tailored to meet the Board's requirements as a regulator. The Board will consult on these guidelines when they are developed.

### **Mentors**

The Board agreed to undertake further work in relation to its use of mentors. Future communiqués will include more information about this issue.

### **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](http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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  
*10 July 2012*