



Communiqué

The October meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 19 October 2012 at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué highlights key issues from this meeting.

At each meeting, the National Board considers a wide range of issues, many of which are routine and are not included in this communiqué.

The National 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 National Board.

Annual Report

AHPRA and the National Boards submitted the combined 2012 Annual Report to Ministers by 30 September as required by the National Law. The report, expected to be publicly released on 1 November, details the work of the National Boards and AHPRA in implementing the second year of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. The release will be supported by the publication of a special edition of the AHPRA Report.

The 2012 Annual Report and AHPRA Report will both be published online.

Review of standards, guidelines and codes

The Chiropractic Board of Australia and the other National Boards that have been in the National Scheme since 2010 have begun preparations for reviewing the registration standards, guidelines and codes that were developed before the scheme commenced.

The National Boards that joined the National Scheme in 2012 will also be participating in the public consultations on common registration standards, codes and guidelines.

Practitioners, members of the public and other stakeholders will be able to provide feedback during the public consultation phases of the reviews. Where registration standards, guidelines and codes are common to all, or most, of the National Boards, the consultation phase will be coordinated across National Boards to make providing feedback easier.

Consultation is expected to occur over several stages, starting in 2013. The consultations are being staged (rather than happening simultaneously) to give stakeholders a better opportunity to provide feedback. Information about the reviews will be included in forthcoming communiqués and on the website as they commence.

Work on the reviews will include public consultation on a proposed social media policy. Until then, the Board's Code of conduct and Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services provide guidance about appropriate use of social media and online behavior.

Current consultations

Public consultation is still underway on the revised *Code of conduct for chiropractors* and *Guidelines on clinical record keeping* along with the Consultation on Accreditation Arrangements for the National Board. These documents are available on the National Board's website under the *News* tab.

Consultation feedback closes on 26 October for revised *Code of conduct for chiropractors* and *Guidelines on clinical record keeping* and on 2 November for *Accreditation arrangements for the National Board*.

Public consultation will commence shortly on the National Board's *Guidelines for the supervision of chiropractors*. This document will be posted to the current consultations section on the National Board's website under the *News* tab when it is available.

Registration renewals

Chiropractors across Australia are reminded that their registration is due for renewal on 30 November.

The quickest and easiest way to renew registration is online. More than 75% of chiropractors renewed using this secure service last year and it is hoped that this could increase to a much higher number this year to be in line with the other professions.

AHPRA is sending a series of emails to chiropractors, for whom an email address is known, reminding them to renew their registration. Practitioners should check that their contact email details are up to date so they receive renewal reminders from AHPRA. These reminders are confirmation that online renewal is open.

Contact details can be updated by going online at www.ahpra.gov.au, following the 'online services' link and using your unique contact number (User ID). If you do not have your User ID, complete an online enquiry form or call 1300 419 495.

Practitioners who do not intend to renew their registration (for reasons such as family leave or moving overseas) can use a new online facility that allows them to 'opt out' of renewing. This service stops renewal reminder being sent to practitioners who don't intend to renew and provides the Board and AHPRA with better data on the number of chiropractors who actively opt out of renewing their registration compared to those who intend to renew but do not do so on time.

Under the National Law, practitioners who do not renew registration within one month of their registration expiry date must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration will lapse and they will not be able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration is approved. There is no discretion for either the Board or AHPRA in this, so practitioners must renew on time.

Standards compliance audit

All health practitioners registered under the National Law are required to comply with a range of registration standards (that are developed after wide-ranging consultation and approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council).

AHPRA is currently developing an auditing framework to test compliance with standards through a practitioner audit project. As advised in previous communiqués, the second phase of the audit pilot is being run at registration renewal this year with the chiropractic, optometry, and pharmacy professions.

Chiropractors will be randomly selected when they apply to renew their registration for the 2012-13 period.

This will apply to both paper and online renewal applications.

There will be an information pack sent to those selected for the audit with additional information available on the AHPRA website www.ahpra.gov.au under *Registration*.

Conclusion

The National Board publishes a range of information about registration and the National 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 AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Dr Phillip Donato

Chiropractor
Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia
23 October 2012