



Communiqué

The December meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 13 December 2013 at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué highlights the important issues from this meeting.

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 National Board.

Season's Greetings

This meeting was the last for 2013 and it affords the National Board an opportunity to reflect on the previous 12 months. The National Board would like to extend season's greetings to everyone who has supported the Board in its work during 2013 and wish them all the best for 2014.

Board Appointments

Members of the Board congratulated Dr Wayne Minter on his appointment to the Board and welcomed him to his first meeting. Dr Minter has been appointed by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council as a practitioner member for New South Wales. Dr Minter brings to the Board extensive experience in the regulation and education of chiropractors. The Board looks forward to Dr Minter's contribution to its work in protecting the public.

Looking forward

The Board reflected that 2013 had been extremely busy, with a significant amount of work related to revising codes, standards and guidelines. This work is set to be completed in 2014. The Board is also planning to hold information sessions for practitioners to explain the revised *Code of Conduct* and *Guidelines for advertising* once they are released.

Chiropractic notifications cases in the media

A recent case involving chiropractic treatment of an infant has attracted considerable media attention. The Board and AHPRA have issued a statement about this case which is published on the Board's website. The role of the Chiropractic Board of Australia is to protect the public, including investigating concerns about individual chiropractors.

As regulators, the Board and AHPRA must act lawfully, consistent with the National Law and within relevant privacy and confidentiality requirements. Under the National Law, AHPRA and the Board are not able to publicly disclose the evidence gathered or reports prepared in investigations into the professional conduct of individual practitioners.

Consistent with the principles of procedural fairness, when AHPRA investigates a matter, it discloses relevant information to the practitioner who is directly involved. Information is also provided to the notifier/s. The specific information provided to each party is governed by privacy principles, confidentiality and consent requirements, the National Law and any other legislation that applies. The legal framework set by governments when making the laws that govern health practitioner regulation in Australia, are designed to protect patients and the integrity of investigations. The Board and AHPRA do not publicly release this information and do not consent to its publication.

In investigating all matters, AHPRA gathers a wide range of evidence and prepares an investigation report for the Board to consider when making its decision.

Chiropractic Board of Australia

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Matters on hold

From time to time, it is prudent that an investigation is put on hold while other processes – such as police matters or coronial investigations take place. There is a strong public and practitioner interest in the timely resolution of notifications, and disciplinary proceedings arising from notifications. Consequently, the Board has agreed that matters will not be put on hold unless this is required in the interests of justice.

Meeting calendar

The National Board has agreed to a schedule of monthly meetings for 2014, all but two of which will be held at the AHPRA National Office in Melbourne.

Registration renewal

Chiropractors were due to renew their registration by 30 November. AHPRA has already forwarded registration renewal information to chiropractors.

If you didn't renew your registration on time, you can still renew until **31 December 2013**, but a late fee will apply. The quickest and easiest way to do this is [online](#).

Practitioners, who haven't renewed by 31 December 2013, will have their registration lapse. Their name will be removed from the public register. This means they must make a new application for registration and will **not be able to practise** until their application has been finalised and their registration details are updated on the national register.

Fast track application forms will be available on the Board's website under *Forms* or by phoning the AHPRA Customer Service Team on 1300 419 495 during January.

Chiropractors who do not want to renew their registration to keep practising can simply ignore the reminders from AHPRA or go online to 'opt out' of renewing. Using the 'opt out' service puts a stop to renewal reminders.

An FAQ about renewal is available on the [National Board's website](#)

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
15 December 2013