



Communiqué

The January meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 18 January 2013 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.

Happy New Year

This meeting was the first for 2013 and the National Board would like to extend best wishes to all stakeholders and partners for 2013. This year is shaping up to be a busy one for the Board, with a heavy schedule of work involving the review of registration standards, codes and guidelines as well as some new initiatives.

Standards, guidelines and codes

The public consultation on the *Guidelines for the Supervision of Chiropractors* is now closed. The National Board is now reviewing and considering the feedback provided. Thank you to all stakeholders who provided their feedback.

Consultations

With other National Boards, the Board is moving towards public consultation on the *Guidelines for Advertising*, *Guidelines for Mandatory Reporting* and the *Social media policy*. These documents are mostly common across most National Boards and consultation will be coordinated across those National Boards.

Review of Accreditation Arrangements

The National Board has just completed public consultation on its accreditation arrangements.

Before the start of the National Scheme, the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia had been assigned the role of accreditation authority for the chiropractic profession by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council for an initial period of three years.

As a result of the recent consultation process, the National Board has decided to continue this arrangement with the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia for a period of five years from 1 July 2013.

In making this decision, the National Board is conscious of the need to balance the need for flexibility and responsiveness to developments such as the review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, the need for certainty and continuity for education providers and the need to enable effective planning and efficient management by the Council. The Board will build appropriate flexibility into its future arrangements with the Council and will establish an agreed program of work and key issues to be addressed during the period of the assignment. The Council will continue to provide the Board with regular reports (in addition to reports on accredited programs) on its activities and governance structures in line with the Quality Framework for the Accreditation Function

Registration renewals

Chiropractors registered in Australia were required to renew their registration by 30 November 2012, (or by 31 December 2012 in the late period when additional fees applied. On 31 December 2012, more than 97% of chiropractors had renewed their registration with more than 91% of them using the online facility.

Under the National Law, chiropractors who did not renew their registration by 31 December 2012 must be removed from the National Register of Practitioners. Their registration has lapsed and they are not able to practise in Australia until a new application for registration has been approved.

There is no discretion for either the National Board or AHPRA about this. A fast track re-registration process is available during January 2013 to facilitate restoration to the register, but practitioners must not practise until their application has been approved. Further information on renewal of registration can be found on the National Board's website at

www.chiropracticboard.gov.au

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 has been run at registration renewal this year with the chiropractic, optometry, and pharmacy professions.

Chiropractors were randomly selected when they applied to renew their registration for the 2012-13 registration period. This applied to both paper and online renewal applications. AHPRA is still working through the audit process and information on the outcome of the project will be published by the National Board when available.

An information pack was sent to those selected for the audit with additional information available on the AHPRA website www.ahpra.gov.au under *Registration*.

Community Reference Group

AHPRA is establishing and currently recruiting for a Community Reference Group on behalf of all National Boards. The Community Reference Group will consist of 10 members from the community who will provide input and advice on how AHPRA and the National Boards can engage the community more effectively. More information is available on the [AHPRA website](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

Chiropractic Board of Australia

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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 AHRPA on 1300 419 495.

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Chiropractor

Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia

23 January 2012