



Communiqué

The July meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the National Board) was held on 18 July 2014. This communiqué highlights key issues from the 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.

Regulatory principles endorsed for National Scheme

The National Board, in conjunction with the other National Boards and AHPRA, have launched refreshed regulatory principles that will underpin the work of the Boards and AHPRA in regulating Australia's health practitioners in the public interest.

The principles are endorsed by all National Boards and the AHPRA Agency Management Committee and will guide Boards and AHPRA when they are making decisions. The principles encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation across all professions within the National Scheme.

Regulatory decision making is complex and contextual, requiring judgement, experience and common sense. The principles will further support consistent, balanced decision-making.

More information about the regulatory principals can be found on the AHPRA website.

Four-year anniversary of the National Scheme

July marks the four-year anniversary of the National Scheme (with Western Australia joining in October 2010). Reflecting on the past four years, the National Board noted many achievements in transitioning to the National Scheme. Now that transition and integration is now effectively complete, the National Board looks forward to a phase of innovation and improvement to ensure that they are performing their obligations under the National Law effectively and efficiently.

Education forum

The National Board noted reports from an education forum, held after the June meeting of the Board, where stakeholder involved in the education of chiropractors met to discuss current issues in the education and training of chiropractors. The National Board was pleased to have representatives from government, chiropractic accreditation and education bodies and professional bodies.

The topics covered and resultant discussions were wide ranging, with stimulating contributions from all who attended. The attendees unanimously agreed that this was a worthwhile and beneficial activity, that a working party be set up to progress the matters discussed, and that this forum be an annual event.

National Boards consult on practitioners with blood borne viruses

The National Board, together with the other National Boards in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, are inviting practitioners, members of the community and other stakeholders to provide feedback on guidelines that will determine how, from a regulatory perspective, health practitioners with blood borne viruses should be managed.

Under the proposed guidelines, registered health practitioners with blood borne viruses must comply with the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) guidelines on this issue to ensure their practice does not compromise patient safety.

The CDNA offers strategic advice to governments and other key bodies on public health actions to minimise the impact of communicable diseases, and their *Australian national guidelines for the management of health care workers known to be infected with blood-borne viruses* are endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council.

The National Boards' proposed guidelines allow health practitioners infected with a blood-borne virus to practise their profession if they comply with the CDNA guidelines. However, they may have to modify their practice. For example, they will not be able to perform certain procedures such as exposure-prone procedures if the CDNA guidelines stop them from doing so.

The current CDNA guidelines define an exposure prone procedure as a procedure where there is a risk of injury to the healthcare worker resulting in exposure of the patient's open tissues to the blood of the worker. These procedures include those where the worker's hands (whether gloved or not) may be in contact with sharp instruments, needle tips or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) inside a patient's open body cavity, wound or confined anatomical space where the hands or fingertips may not be completely visible at all times.

The National Boards have published a consultation paper to support the proposed guidelines, [accessible here](#). The consultation is open until 26 September 2014.

Queensland – new arrangements for handling notifications from 1 July 2014

The National Board noted that from 1 July 2014 a new law comes in to effect in Queensland, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*.

From this date, all complaints about Queensland health practitioners will be received by the Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) who will either manage the matters or refer them to the relevant National Board to manage.

Complaints that were made to AHPRA or National Boards before 1 July 2014 will generally continue to be managed by AHPRA as delegated by the National Boards. However, under the new law the OHO can request that a matter be referred to them to be managed. If this were to happen, AHPRA will inform both the notifier and the practitioner who is the subject of the notification.

For information about the Office of the Health Ombudsman please go to www.oho.qld.gov.au or call 133 646 (133 OHO).

To find out more about how notifications/complaints are managed nationally, please go to the [What is a notification?](#) page on the AHPRA website.

Cross profession community member panels appointments

The National Board approved the appointment of 30 community members to the National Boards' cross profession list of approved persons. These persons have been appointed for 3 years and can be called upon to sit on performance and professional standards panels and health panels held under Part 8 of the National Law.

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

18 July 2014

Chiropractic Board of Australia

G.P.O. Box 9958 | Melbourne VIC 3001 | www.chiropracticboard.gov.au | 1300 419 495