



Communiqué

The April 2015 meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) was held on 17 April 2015 at the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) National Office in Melbourne. This communiqué highlights the important 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.

Advertising by chiropractors

The Board received an update from AHPRA and noted the high number of advertising complaints made about chiropractors. The Board will continue to work with AHPRA and inform chiropractors of their responsibilities as outlined in the advertising guidelines so as to improve chiropractor's compliance with the advertising provisions of the National Law¹.

A copy of the guidelines about advertising regulated health services can be found in the [Codes and guidelines](#) section on the Board's website.

Advertising that falls outside of these requirements is an offence against the National Law and may be prosecuted in Court. Consequently advertising matters are usually referred to AHPRA's statutory offences unit and are not dealt with by the Board.

Analysis of notifications data

The Board also noted the fact that the chiropractic profession has the third highest number of total notifications per year per thousand practitioners of all the professions.

The Board is considering a project to analyse notifications data in order to provide it with more comprehensive information about the reasons for, and the outcomes of, notifications. The analysis may provide the Board with more detailed and specific information to assist it to better educate and work with the profession to achieve a drop in notifications.

Improving monitoring of conditions on practitioner registration

AHPRA has welcomed calls for stringent monitoring and swift detection of breaches in compliance by registered health practitioners with restrictions on their registration.

On 24 March 2015, the Queensland Office of the Health Ombudsman (OHO) published a report recommending a range of initiatives to strengthen monitoring and compliance in Queensland and the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The report's recommendations affirm the sweeping changes AHPRA has already initiated to strengthen its compliance and monitoring program.

¹ The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory

AHPRA's detailed response to the OHO and the recommendations in the report is published in the [Corporate publications](#) section of AHPRA's website.

Since July 2014, health complaints management in Queensland for registered health practitioners has involved a partnership between National Boards, AHPRA and the OHO.

Improvements to compliance monitoring add to the overhaul of complaints management in Queensland that started in 2012. Recent initiatives include preparation for stricter drug and alcohol screening announced in February 2015, the appointment of a national compliance manager and stronger national coordination of the compliance function.

For more information, please read the [media release](#) on AHPRA'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 information or help with questions about your registration please send an [online enquiry form](#) or contact AHPRA on 1300 419 495.

Dr Wayne Minter AM

Chiropractor

Chair

Chiropractic Board of Australia

17 April 2015