

Communiqué

November 2015 meeting of the Chiropractic Board of Australia

The Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Board meets each month to consider and decide on any matters related to its regulatory function within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This communiqué aims to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board. Please forward it on to colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content.

Limited registration standards

The Board has started its routine review of the registration standards for limited registration in the public interest and limited registration for teaching or research. The Board hopes to be able to circulating the revised standards for public consultation and input in the second quarter of 2016.

Revised registration standards published

The Board has published the revised continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice registration standards. The revised standards are being published in advance of the implementation date to help practitioners planning their CPD and/or return to practice. The revised standards come into effect on 1 December and will replace the standards currently in place. Further information including a link to common FAQ is available in a [news item](#).

Review of fact sheets

To ensure that practitioners and members of the public have access to up to date and accurate information about notifications the Board reviewed the following fact sheets:

- Information on notifications
- Information on immediate action
- Information on management of impaired practitioners and students, and
- Information on panel hearings.

The Board intends to publish links on its website to more detailed information about notifications, such as who can make a notification and grounds for making a notification. This information includes details about the notification process, including flow charts that explain the stages of the notification process.

An information sheet will be included for practitioners about their right to and the mechanisms for appeal after panel or immediate action hearings.

There will be more up-to-date advice about the different regulatory arrangements in New South Wales and Queensland that outlines which entities deal with which complaints and how AHPRA works with these and other health complaints entities.

Of potential interest to practitioners and notifiers is the [Improving our work](#) page on the *Notifications and Outcomes* section of the AHPRA website. It includes a link to the report, 'Setting things right: Improving the consumer experience of AHPRA including the joint notification process between AHPRA and OHSC'. The

page also includes links to the AHPRA documents, *Action plan to improve our customer service* and *Update on work to improve our customer service*.

National drug screening protocol

From November 2015, all chiropractors who have restrictions placed on their registration by the Board as a result of past substance misuse will be subject to routine quarterly hair testing, in addition to random urine testing.

The introduction of routine hair testing is based on expert advice about modern screening methods. Routine hair testing helps provide comprehensive information about the use – over time – of a wide range of drugs (not just based on the practitioner's drug taking history).

The drug screening protocol is part of a wider, national strategy to effectively manage compliance and monitoring across the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. More information is in the [statement](#) published on the Board's website.

2014/15 National Scheme annual report

AHPRA and the National Boards have released their 2014/15 annual report on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme), providing a comprehensive record of the operations of the National Scheme for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The annual report provides a national snapshot of the work and finances of the National Scheme and is tabled in the parliaments of each state and territory and the Commonwealth.

For the chiropractic profession, the report reveals that:

- 4,998 practitioners were registered at the end of June 2015, an increase of 3.2% per cent from the previous year
- 41 notifications (concerns/complaints) were received about chiropractors (excluding NSW where there is a co-regulatory system)
- 68 notifications about chiropractors were closed by 30 June 2015
- of the 68 cases closed under the National Scheme, the Chiropractic Board of Australia determined:
 - to take no further action or that the case was to be handled by the relevant health complaints entity in the relevant state or territory in 27 cases
 - that conditions be imposed on a practitioner's registration in 14 cases
 - in 10 cases cautions would be issued, and
 - 1 case resulted in cancellation or suspension of a practitioner's registration.

The annual report is published at www.ahpra.gov.au/annualreport/2015. It includes a detailed report – including data – for the Chiropractic Board of Australia. A media release about the report – with data across professions and jurisdictions – is published on the [AHPRA website](#).

Are your contact details up to date?

It is important that your contact details are up to date to receive renewal reminders from AHPRA and information from the Board.

You can check your details via the [Login icon](#) at the top right of the AHPRA website.

Email accounts need to be set to receive communications from AHPRA and the Board to avoid misdirection to an account junk box.

Quarterly registration data released

The Board has released its [quarterly registration data](#). The latest report and other statistics are published on our website under *About*.

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
20 November 2015