

## Communiqué

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### February 2016 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.

#### Advertising issues

The Board considered and discussed a review of a number of complaints made about advertising by some chiropractors. The Board noted several areas of concern, such as treatment claims that may be misleading to the public resulting in unnecessary or inappropriate treatment, particularly to pregnant patients, children and infants, as well as antivaccination statements.

Although the Board has provided repeated guidance on advertising issues to chiropractors, including a newsletter in September 2015, some chiropractors are not yet complying.

Given the evidence to hand, the Board decided to provide additional clarity to all chiropractors in a [statement](#) about some of these specific advertising issues and ensure that each practitioner receives a copy of that statement.

#### Audit

The next audit of compliance with registration standards is set to start next month. Randomly selected chiropractors will be contacted by AHPRA to provide evidence to support the declarations made when they renewed their registration late last year. Any chiropractor who is found to have made a false declaration can expect the Board to take action against their registration.

#### National awareness campaign

You may have seen the beginning of the AHPRA national awareness campaign. **Know your obligations**, the first of three phases, directed at employers of health practitioners, launched at the close of last year. The message has been shared over social media through targeted ads resulting in a doubling of our online community.

The next phase of the campaign is targeted at practitioners. Under the headline of **The not-so-small print**, practitioners are encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered health practitioners. Advertisements published this month have been across a mix of social media, industry publications and newsletters.

The final phase will be directed at the public to increase awareness of the [national register of practitioners](#).

## Chiropractic Board of Australia profession profile

The Board will soon publish a report of its work in the chiropractic profession in the National Scheme during 2014/15.

The report provides a profession-specific view of the Board's work to manage risk to the public. It is a profile of regulation at work for chiropractic in Australia for the 12 months ending 30 June 2015.

The data in this report are drawn from data published in the [2014/15 annual report](#) of AHPRA and the National Boards, reporting on the National Scheme, and will be available soon on the [AHPRA 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](http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au) or [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://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  
*15 April 2016*