



## Communiqué

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### May 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 matters

The Board noted a progress update on the management of advertising complaints made against chiropractors. The Board noted that most practitioners have readily responded to concerns raised by AHPRA in relation to their advertising by amending the content to ensure that it complies with the Board's recent guidance. The Board noted that in cases where either practitioners had refused to amend their advertising and/or the advertising gave rise to significant concerns, a number of practitioners have been referred for investigation under the National Law's disciplinary provisions and charges may be laid in relation to offences under the National Law.

#### Board vacancy

Every time a Board member comes to the end of their term on the Board, the vacant position is widely advertised. A vacancy for a practitioner member from New South Wales is now being advertised. Applicants may also express interest in being considered for appointment as the Board's new Chair when applying for the practitioner member vacancy. Applications close on Monday 20 June 2016.

All National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. More information about how to apply is on the [National Boards recruitment page](#) on AHPRA's website.

#### Budget and health profession agreement

The Board approved its budget for the 2016/17 period and also considered the proposed health profession agreement for the period 2016/20. The Board looks forward to final approval of the health profession agreement in the coming months.

#### Family and domestic violence – Queensland and Victoria state reports released

The Board is committed to being part of the solution to major health and social problems as best we can within our mandate as a regulator of chiropractors.

Everyone should feel safe at home. Tragically, many people across Australia face great danger at home from the people closest to them. Family violence can affect anyone, regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity or sexuality and it not only impacts on victims, but also their family, friends and the wider society. Health practitioners who often work closely with families could also be in the right place at the right time to help families who fall victim to such violence.

The Board wants to make chiropractors aware of two significant reports recently released on this issue, including one in Queensland and one in Victoria.

The Queensland Government commissioned a special taskforce to conduct an inquiry into domestic and family violence in Queensland. The Taskforce's report '[Not Now Not Ever - putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland](#)' made 140 recommendations to Queensland and national bodies, including three to the National Scheme.

In Victoria, the Royal Commission into Family Violence released its **report and recommendations** on how Victoria's response to family violence can be improved. The Commission's 227 recommendations are directed at improving the foundations of the current system, seizing opportunities to transform the way that we respond to family violence, and building the structures that will guide and oversee a long-term reform program that deals with all aspects of family violence.

Though there were no specific recommendations directed towards AHPRA or National Boards, several referenced the important role the health system and health professional bodies have to play in influencing child safeguarding and in improving the accreditation and training for health practitioners in this area.

### **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.

### **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