



## Communiqué

---

### June 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.

#### Revised registration standards

In 2015 the Board published the revised standards and supporting materials to help chiropractors understand their requirements. The standards for continuing professional development (CPD) and recency of practice came into effect on 1 December 2015 and apply throughout this current registration period.

The revised standards for professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements came into effect on 1 July 2016. Practitioners must comply with the new standard by the time they renew their registration, which is due by 30 November 2016.

The key change in the new PII arrangements registration standard is the minimum amount of cover specified in the current standard (\$20 million) has been removed. The new standard aims to take a more contemporary and flexible approach, and requires registrants who are taking out their own insurance to do an objective self-assessment, informed by policies provided by insurance providers to ensure they have adequate and appropriate insurance arrangements or professional indemnity cover for their practice.

Further changes improve the clarity and workability of the standard, and understanding of the requirements and obligations of registrants. There have been some minor changes to the requirements relating to run-off and retroactive cover to avoid duplication and provide more clarity.

The revised standards can be found [here](#).

#### Formal learning activities

Under the current CPD registration standard and guideline, formal learning activities are evidence-based activities that encourage or enhance evidence-based clinical practice and contribute to the maintenance and development of both clinical competencies and clinical practice; with the expectation these activities will contribute to minimising risk as well as improving patient safety and health outcomes.

There is no definitive list of what can be a formal learning activity as long as it meets the criteria set by the Board and has been assessed by either the individual practitioner claiming the hours or by a recognised body.

The Board has had a number of enquiries about whether the supervision of students, could be considered a formal learning activity. The Board feels the supervision of students in the ordinary course of their clinical training, particularly in the course of a practitioners normal employment, would not generally satisfy as formal learning, however the supervision of students in undertaking charitable and other activities beyond the

auspices of their normal clinical training may fulfil the criteria for a formal learning activity depending on the outcome of the individual assessment of the activity. All formal learning must satisfy the criteria and be evidenced in the assessment. It is the assessment of the activity that determines whether the activity satisfies the criteria for formal learning rather than the type of activity. Practitioners seeking to claim these hours as formal learning must keep evidence of the assessment in the portfolio and produce the evidence when requested.

### **National awareness campaign**

The third and final phase of AHPRA's national awareness campaign is underway.

Under the headline of [Safe in the knowledge](#), the phase targets the public to increase awareness of the [national register of health practitioners](#) and encourages them to check it before visiting their practitioner. The AHPRA website has been updated with additional information on what the public can do if a practitioner can't be found on the register.

As part of the campaign, employers of health practitioners have been urged to understand their obligations while practitioners have also been encouraged to stay up to date with regulation changes as they occur, and to be aware of their obligations as registered practitioners.

### **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  
*3 August 2016*