

## Communiqué

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### July 2017 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 in 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.

The July 2017 meeting was held face to face in the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) National Office, Melbourne.

#### Quarterly registration data released

The Board publishes quarterly data profiling Australia's chiropractic workforce, including a number of statistical breakdowns about registrants. The Board's March 2017 registration data is now published the Board's [Statistics page](#).

#### A first for South Australia as tribunal permanently cancels Chiropractor's registration

The Board has successfully brought disciplinary proceedings against a South Australian chiropractor, Dr Anthony Shanahan, after the South Australian Health Practitioners Tribunal (the tribunal) found his behaviour was a 'grave departure from the standards expected of chiropractor'.

The tribunal's decision is the result of investigations by the Board and AHPRA into allegations that Dr Shanahan subjected three female patients to inappropriate physical contact.

The Board took immediate action to protect the public by placing restrictions on Dr Shanahan's registration when a complaint was received in September 2013.

To read the full [press release](#) go to the *News section* of Board's website, see [www.chiropracticboard.gov.au](http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au).

#### Advertising information available for practitioners

The Board noted that further advertising information is now available on the AHPRA website to help chiropractors **check** and **correct** their advertising so they **comply** with legal requirements.

It includes:

- [examples](#) of non-compliant advertising by registered health practitioners and changes that would help it to comply with the National Law<sup>1</sup>, and
- information about AHPRA's process for managing advertising complaints, and a [summary](#) of advertising guidelines.

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<sup>1</sup> The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Chiropractors are responsible for their advertising and must be able to substantiate any claims made that their treatments benefit patients. If in doubt about a claim, chiropractors should leave it out of their advertising. For more about advertising requirements see the [Advertising resources](#) section of the AHPRA website: [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

### COAG Health Council meeting communique: progressing amendments to the National Law

The federal and state and territory health ministers met in Brisbane on 4 August 2017 at the [COAG Health Council](#) to discuss a range of national health issues. The meeting was chaired by the Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon. Jill Hennessy. AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher attended the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council (the Ministerial Council) meeting which brings together all health ministers throughout Australia to provide oversight for the work of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. AHPRA and the National Boards provide a regular update to the Ministerial Council on our work.

The meeting included an agreement by health ministers to proceed with amendments to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) to strengthen penalties for offences committed by people who hold themselves out to be a registered health practitioner, including those who use reserved professional titles or carry out restricted practices when not registered. Ministers also agreed to proceed with an amendment to introduce a custodial sentence with a maximum term of up to three years for these offences. These important reforms will be fast tracked to strengthen public protection under the National Law. Preparation will now begin on a draft amendment bill, with a view to being introduced to the Queensland Parliament in 2018.

Ministers also discussed mandatory reporting provisions for treating health practitioners, agreeing that protecting the public from harm is of paramount importance as is supporting practitioners to seek help and treatment for their health concerns, including for their mental health and well-being. They agreed doctors should be able to confidentially seek treatment for health issues while preserving the requirement for patient safety. It was agreed that the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council will recommend a nationally consistent approach to mandatory reporting following a consultation process with consumer and practitioner groups. A proposal on mandatory reporting is expected to be considered at the November 2017 meeting of the COAG Health Council.

The Council produces a [communiqué](#) from its meeting which can be accessed on AHPRA's 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.

### Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.



### 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

**July 2017**