

CHIROPRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA
STANDARDS OF PRACTICE CODES AND GUIDELINES
POLICY ON CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

December 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chiropractors Registration Board of Victoria (the Board) supports the principles of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for registered chiropractors in this state. CPD is a process of lifelong learning that better enables practitioners to both better meet the needs of their patients and their profession. It is seen to be a broader concept than simply ongoing education of a didactic nature as it extends to cover the learning and development that may occur through a much wider variety of learning tools and activities. CPD may also allow for learning to extend beyond the mere technical aspects of practice, and allow for professional development in other areas of a professional's life, although this should represent only a very small percentage of the total CPD experience for any practitioner.

The Board understands that some professional bodies already have CPD programs in place and this Board recognises certificates of compliance offered by those programs. Practitioners are free to provide the Board with copies of any such certificate of attainment and request that they have it included in their file. Other practitioners may wish to voluntarily participate in their own 'self-directed program'. Similarly they can submit their plans and completed programs for inclusion in their file.

Whilst not mandated by legislation, the Board encourages all practitioners to engage in CPD as it has the potential to benefit the public, the professional and the practitioner and is congruent with the identity and values of a modern, registered health care professional.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

The Board would like to make the following comments about CPD programs, which should be born in mind by both those contemplating and those developing such programs.

- Although not mandatory, a practitioner's participation in a CPD program is to be encouraged.
- CPD programs should ideally cover 4 stages. The first being identification of areas of need, the second being the detailed planning of an educational program, the third being the execution of that program and the final being a re-evaluation of the areas of need. Such programs should ideally continue into a pattern of life long learning and development. If you require advice on how to create and execute a CPD program,

there are many web based resources, or alternatively you can contact this office for a list of resources.

- When planning a CPD program, due consideration should be given to a variety of both formal and informal learning activities.
- The majority of such programs should be devoted to material that directly benefits the care of patients and the minority about matters ancillary to the care of patients.
- Ideally CPD programs should both be tailored to the individual practitioner's needs and their preferred learning style.
- Ideally CPD programs should be completed over a 2 to 3 year cycle.
- Those practitioners undertaking a 'self directed program' of CPD should aim to achieve at least 24 hours of learning in any CPD period.
- Evidence of CPD completed may assist the Board when making decisions about a practitioner's currency of practice and/or professional performance.