



Issue 17 December 2007

Dear Registrant

Previous Newsletters have mentioned that the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) announced last year that a new National Health Professionals Registration and Accreditation Act would come into effect on 1st July 2008. The most recent advice the Board has received now indicates that any national registration plan will not be operational until at least July 2009 and possibly even later. The introduction of the new scheme was predicated on all States and Territories signing an Inter-Governmental Agreement, which was then to be signed by the Federal Government. To date not all parties have signed the agreement and the proposed legislation has been referred back to the stakeholders for further consultation.

Therefore, as far as this Board is concerned, it is business as usual and we will continue to operate under The Health Professions Registration Act 2005, which came into effect on 1st July this year. As outlined previously, this Act gives the Board broader powers of investigation and increased penalties as well as providing the public with a more transparent process with regard to complaints. The new Act also increases the number of Board members from 7 to 9, with the addition of one more practitioner member and one more consumer representative. The Board now comprises 5 practitioner members, 3 consumer members and 1 legal member.

The new members are Dr. Judy Courtin, practitioner member, and Mr. Rex Deighton-Smith, consumer member. The Board has warmly welcomed these new members as both these individuals bring a wide range of expertise and experience to the Board from their respective careers.

Dr. Courtin is a 1981 graduate of Phillip Institute of Technology (RMIT) and after graduation established and operated several multidisciplinary health clinics with a special interest in occupational rehabilitation. To add to and broaden her knowledge base Dr. Courtin also completed a law degree with Honours at Latrobe University in 2004. Mr. Deighton-Smith is an economist and a director of a private consulting firm specialising in advice on policy and regulatory issues to governments, as well as being part of the Advisory Board in the Department of Law at Monash University.

Information and Contacts

If you are unsure or require further information on any topic, please contact the Registrar on:

Telephone (03) 9639 8652

Facsimile (03) 9639 8653

The Board has a home page on the Internet, the address is:

chiroreg.vic.gov.au

Board Members

Dr John Reggars
President

Dr Amanda Kimpton
Vice President

Dr Robert Cathie D.C.
Chiropractor

Dr Bruce Ellis
Chiropractor

Ms Michelle Ehrlich
Lawyer member

Mr Peter Hansen FAICD
Non chiropractor

Ms Esther Alter
Non chiropractor

Unfortunately, our previous Legal member Ms. Michelle Ehrlich, has resigned to take up a position as an Acting Magistrate in the Victorian Children's Court. The Board wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Michelle for her contribution over the past year and in particular for her assistance and guidance during the transition into the new Act. We wish her well and every success in her new position. Whilst it was sad to bid farewell to Michelle I am most pleased to welcome the appointment of Ms. Joanna Devrome as our new Legal Member. Joanna comes to this Board with the right mix of qualifications and experience to act as the Board's legal representative, as apart from her general law experience and qualifications she also holds a degree in economics and importantly has been the legal member for the Veterinary Board since July 2006.

As a requirement of the 2005 Act all registration boards must have their practice guidelines approved by the Minister. Our Board recently received approval for all its existing guidelines and these have been posted on the Board's Website for your information. Also posted on the Website are the revised Advertising Guidelines, which as part of the new process are published for comment before being formally approved. This Board still receives numerous complaints regarding advertising and I encourage all registrants to peruse the amended guidelines in order to avoid potential complaints.

The Board is still concerned with the number of chiropractors who fail provide adequate notification of a change of address. It is worth reminding all registered chiropractors that failure to notify the Board of a change of address within 14 days may result in an appearance at the Magistrates Court and possibly a substantial fine. This Newsletter includes a "Change of Address" form to facilitate compliance with Act. This form will soon be available for download from the Board's Website.

On behalf of the Board I wish you and your families a very happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

John W. Reggars
President