

CHIROPRACTORS AND OSTEOPATHS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2007

Board Members

Dr Karen A Dean	Osteopath
Dr Katie Hallworth	Chiropractor
Ms Patrica Slocum	Public Member
Ms Andrea Walduck	Public Member
Dr Brigitte Muller	Osteopath
Vacant	Chiropractor

Board Support

Ms Jill Huck	Registrar
Ms Julie Burrows	Registrations
Ms Colette Pethick	Research & Policy
Ms Samantha Bullen	A/Complaints Mgr

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the first Newsletter for 2007. Firstly I welcome Dr Bridgette Muller to the Board.

As did the last Newsletter, this and future Newsletters will provide ongoing feedback in relation to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), National Registration and Accreditation model.

COAG plans to commence the new arrangements for regulation and accreditation of 9 professional groups in July 2008. These health professions are as follows:

Medical Practitioners; Chiropractors; Dental (Dentists, Dental Specialists, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Prosthetists); Nurses & Midwives; Optometrists; Osteopaths; Pharmacists; Physiotherapists, and Psychologists.

Consideration is being given to inclusion of other professions.

Occupational Therapists, Aboriginal Health Workers and Radiographers will continue to be regulated under current Northern Territory legislation.

The Chairs of the Northern Territory Boards listed above have forwarded a submission to the Northern Territory Government. The Australian Council of Osteopaths Registration Boards, Australian Council of Chiropractors Registration Boards and the Council of Chiropractic Education have all forwarded submissions in relation to the National Registration and National Accreditation model proposed by COAG.

The Board strongly encourages all chiropractors and osteopaths to develop an understanding of the *Health Practitioners Act 2004* and hopes its Newsletters provide assistance in this area. Every year the Board identifies practitioners that have not taken account of the detail provided on

their annual practising certificates (APC). Please ensure:

- You note the date on which your APC expires;
- The accuracy of information on your APC; and
- You keep your APC in a secure place.

The Board has been disappointed with the number of registrants who have allowed their registration to lapse and have practised unlicensed for a period. Should you find your self in this situation, it is in the best interest of your clients, yourself and your employer to rectify the situation immediately.

Please contact the Board if you have items of interest you would like the Board to address in Newsletters.

Best Wishes

Dr Karen Dean (Chair)

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Urgent! Urgent!

There is currently one vacancy for Chiropractors on the Board a second vacancy will occur in July 2007. In addition there will be one vacancy for an Osteopath in May of this year. Therefore, if you are a Chiropractor or Osteopath who is are committed to your profession and believe you can make a contribution to the Board, you are encouraged to lodge an Expression of Interest by contacting the Research and Policy Officer or the Registrar on 08 89994157 or responding to the attached flyer.

The Chiropractors and Osteopaths Board of the Northern Territory has four broad objectives:

- (a) To protect and promote the health and safety of the people of the Territory;
- (b) To promote the highest standards of professional health care practice in the Territory;
- (c) To determine the standards for registration of health practitioners and for professional health care practice in the Territory; and
- (d) To facilitate the continuing competence of health practitioners in the Territory.

Board membership is through Ministerial appointment and non-government employees are eligible for remuneration.

Policies and Guidelines

The following new policy is attached for your reference and available on the Board's website:

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- Chiropractors and Osteopaths Code of Professional Conduct'

The Board encourages practitioners to refer to other jurisdictions Board websites for additional information to guide your practice. New policies on the South Australian Board website:

www.cbsa.saborads.com.au

1. Your Rights as a Patient
2. Consumer Information
3. Use of X-Rays
4. Assistants in Chiropractic and Osteopathy Practice

Scheduled Board Meeting Dates

Please note the Board requires information to be addressed at a Board meeting to be available two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.

2 February

18 May

10 August

16 November

Information for Chiropractors, Osteopaths and Employers re Practising Unlicensed

To hold a current registration in the Northern Territory is a legal requirement and the responsibility of the practitioner. Practising unlicensed is a breach of Section 101 (1)(b) of the *Health Practitioners Act*.

The Board alerts practitioners and employers to the fact that practising unlicensed may: affect indemnity arrangements and cause the practitioner and employer to be in breach of the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.

The Board reminds practitioners it is their responsibility to ensure they hold a current practising certificate. Please note **your practising certificate expires on 30 September every year**. If you fail to renew your practising certificate by **30 September**, and continue to practise, you have committed an offence under the Act.

Renewal forms are posted to registrants by the end of August/September annually, forms will be available from this office or the Board's website. Please note, non-receipt of a renewal notice in August is not an acceptable reason for practising unlicensed.

Employers are reminded to ensure they have sound processes in place to ensure all chiropractors and osteopaths and other regulated health profession employees hold current registration.

Australian Council of Osteopaths Registration Boards Conference (ACORB)

Delegates from Boards in each Australian and New Zealand Board attended the September 2006 ACORB Conference held in Adelaide.

This conference was dominated by the COAG model for regulation of osteopaths and other health professions in Australia and ensuring submissions from ACORB are forwarded to the COAG working group.

Australian Council of Chiropractic Registration Boards Conference (ACCRB)

ACCRB members representing all Australian and New Zealand Boards attended the September 2006 ACCRB Conference held in Adelaide.

COAG and ACCRB's preferred model for regulation of chiropractors in Australia also dominated this conference in addition there was considerable discussion and support for the Northern Territory's 'Spinal Manipulation Policy'.

Council of Chiropractic Education (CCEA)

The Annual General Meeting of CCEA was conducted in September 2006 in Adelaide.

<http://www.ccea.com.au>

Summary:

A number of courses nationally are currently being assessed for the ability to meet accreditation standards.

CCEA is seeking clarification from COAG and supporting the continued role of CCEA in accreditation of chiropractic courses in Australia.

Know your Act

Chiropractors, Osteopaths and 10 other health profession groups are regulated under the *Health Practitioners Act 2004* in the Northern Territory. The purpose of the Act is to ensure public protection.

The following information is provided to emphasise the need to ensure your Annual Practising Certificate is current, correct and secure. In addition information in relation to Offences of dishonesty has been provided.

S40 (2) Practising certificates

A practising certificate issued to a registered health practitioner is evidence until the due date, or the date determined by the relevant Board, that

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(a) the health practitioner is authorised to practise in the Territory in the category of registration specified in the certificate subject to the conditions, if any, specified in the certificate;

(b) the health practitioner is authorised to practise in the restricted practice areas, if any, subject to the conditions, if any, specified in the certificate; or

S41 Replacement and amendment of certificates

(1) If the relevant Board is satisfied that a certificate issued by it has been lost or destroyed, it may issue a replacement certificate (that is marked accordingly) on the replacement certificate fee being paid.

(2) The relevant Board, by notice, may require a health practitioner to surrender a certificate issued to the health practitioner to enable it to issue a new certificate with amended particulars.

(3) The Registrar of a Board has the same powers in relation to an interim certificate of registration or enrolment as the Board has under this section in relation to certificates issued by it.

(4) A health practitioner who is given a notice under subsection (2) must surrender the certificate to the relevant Board –

(a) within 7 days after receiving the notice; or

(b) within any longer period that the Board allows and specifies in the notice.

(5) A person who is given a notice by a Registrar under subsection (3) must surrender his or her interim certificate to the Registrar –

(a) within 7 days after receiving the notice; or

(b) within any longer period that the Registrar allows and specifies in the notice.

Penalty: 50 penalty units.

42. Offences in relation to certificates

A person who is issued with a certificate of registration must not –

(d) lend or agree to lend that certificate to another person; or

(e) allow that certificate to be used by another person.

Penalty: 500 penalty units.

106. Offences of dishonesty

(1) A person must not make or produce a false or misleading statement, either orally or in writing, in connection with –

(a) an application, assessment or inquiry;

(b) a preliminary investigation into a complaint; or

(c) an investigation carried out by an inspector.

(2) A person must not forge or change –

(a) a certificate of registration or enrolment;

(b) an interim certificate of registration or enrolment; or

(c) a practising certificate.

(3) A person must not forge or change a degree, diploma or other evidence of qualifications for registration or enrolment under this Act.

(4) An offence against this section is a regulatory offence.

Section 46

Notice of change of name or address

A health practitioner must, within 30 days of changing his or her name, personal address or business address, give the relevant Board notice of the change and the new name or address, as the case may be.

Failing to update the Board with changes of name / address details means that you will not receive any correspondence from the Board. In effect this means you will miss the opportunity:

- To keep up with changes to policy;
- Receive newsletters, and
- Receive the application to renew your registration.

The Board seeks your assistance in ensuring that the name and contact details maintained on the database are current.

Professional Conduct

As at 30 January 2007 there were no matters concerning professional conduct before the Board.

In the final quarter of last year the Board noted one complaint currently being investigated by Health and Community Services Complaints Commission.

Registration Statistics

As at **31 December 2006** there were:

24 Chiropractors and **7** Osteopaths on the Register, as opposed to 29 Chiropractors and 6 Osteopaths for the same time in 2005.

Stop Press!

Remember the renewal date for registration is 30 September 2007 unless otherwise stated on your Annual Practising Certificate.

Contact Details

Chiropractors and Osteopaths Board of the Northern Territory

GPO Box 4221 DARWIN NT 0801

Telephone +61 8 8999 4157

Fax +61 8 8999 4196

Email healthprofessions.ths@nt.gov.au

Web Address

www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards

**VACANCIES
CHIROPRACTORS AND OSTEOPATHS REGISTRATION
BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Chiropractors and Osteopaths Board of the Northern Territory?

One vacancy for an Osteopath and two vacancies for Chiropractors exist on the Board. If you are an Osteopath or Chiropractor and believe you can make a contribution to the Board you are encouraged to lodge an Expression of Interest in being appointed.

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- (h) To facilitate the continuing competence of health practitioners in the Territory.

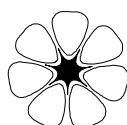
Osteopaths and Chiropractors interested in being considered for appointment to fill the relevant professional vacancy should apply in writing, outlining their suitability and enclosing a brief curriculum vitae to:

The Hon Dr Chris Burns MLA
Minister for Health
GPO Box 3146 DARWIN NT 0801

**Applications should be received by the Minister's Office
by close of business on Monday 12 March 2007.**

For further information on the role, contact Ms Colette Pethick,
Policy & Research Officer on 08 8999 4159

Please refer to the Board's policies and guidelines available on the following website:
www.nt.gov.au/health/registrationboards



Northern Territory Government