

The NZ Chiropractic Board takes this opportunity to update practising chiropractors on current issues.

Board Disciplinary Tribunal – Dr Michael John Ruding

The Chiropractic Board has ordered that Dr Michael John Rudin have his name removed from the Register of Chiropractors for a minimum of five years and that any application for reinstatement be supported by evidence of suitable counselling and treatment and of adequate clinical competency to the Board's satisfaction. He was also ordered to pay \$10,248.60 in costs.

The Board found that actions by Dr Rudin of Nelson amounted to professional misconduct, in one case, and conduct unbecoming a registered chiropractor. The charges related to:

1. Two charges of having an intimate and sexual relationship with a client;
2. Having terminated the therapeutic relationship and the sexual relationship failed to refer the client to another chiropractor; and
3. Failing to provide a client with adequate information regarding the advantages, disadvantages, nature and cost of weight control pills provided for the client.

Agreement on Examinations

The Chairman of the Board, Dr Julian White has confirmed that following a meeting held between the Chiropractic Board and the New Zealand College of Chiropractic Board of Trustees it has been agreed that:

1. The Board will accept NZCC graduates for registration following the College's receipt of CCEA accreditation;
2. As a transitional arrangement the Board will recognise the current cohort of graduates based on their results in the 2003 NZCC final examinations and successful completion of graduation requirements;
3. In order to fulfil the requirements of the HPCA legislation and the requirements of the current statutory regime, the Board will continue to monitor the College's education programme; and
4. In the event that the College has not achieved accreditation by July 2005 the agreement will lapse.

The Chiropractic Board will continue to hold competency

examinations for overseas applicants for registration in February and July each year. The next Board competency examinations will be held in Auckland on 16/17 July 2004.

Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act – Implications for the Chiropractic Profession

For some time the Board has been concerned that the provisions of the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act (TTMRA) has undermined the standards of the chiropractic profession in New Zealand. In particular the Board has noted that the Act allows overseas chiropractors to use registration in an Australian state as a basis for applying for registration in New Zealand, even when they are not Australian residents or citizens. This has allowed a number of chiropractors of questionable professional standing to register in Australia and use that registration to gain registration in New Zealand.

The Board continues to be concerned that this 'backdoor' method of obtaining registration remains open. To address their concerns the Board has taken the case directly to the Minister of Health who has asked that the Board and Ministry officials work together to address this issue. The Board anticipates that the problem will be comprehensively addressed when the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance legislation is enacted in September of this year, enabling them to establish competence standards for all members of the profession.

Paying for your APC

The Board has become concerned at the number of chiropractors who have not paid for an APC by 1 April each year, and are therefore practicing illegally. Accordingly, the Board has Gazetted a notice providing it with powers to impose a late fee of \$100 on practitioners who do not pay by the due date. In future the cost of an APC will be \$1,100 for those who pay by 31 March, and \$1,200 for those paying on 1 April or later each year.

In addition the Board has directed that a list of chiropractors who have paid their APCs by 31 March each year will be sent to ACC, the NZ Chiropractor's Association, the Health and Disability Commissioner and the National

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Radiation Laboratory. Chiropractors should be aware that there may be difficulties in receiving ACC payments and problems with x-ray licensing and Association membership if their names are not included on this list.

After Hours Chiropractic Care

Registered chiropractors are asked to note that one of the requirements of their contract with ACC is that they make provision for after hours care for their patients.

Chiropractic Board – Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

An up to date copy of the Board's *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* is available on the Board's website www.chiropracticboard.org.nz. Chiropractors are asked remain up to date with the information in this document.

Change of Address

Every year a number of registered chiropractors are embarrassed when their APC account fails to arrive and they find themselves practising outside the requirements of the Chiropractors Act. This usually occurs because the Board's office has not been advised of changes of address as required by the Chiropractors Act. Section 20(1) of the Act requires *"Every chiropractor who at any time changes his address appearing in the register shall, within 3 months thereafter, send to the Secretary a notice of his new address, and the Secretary shall accordingly amend the entry in the register relating to that person"*.

To ensure you receive your Board correspondence on time, please advise changes of mailing address to The Secretary, Chiropractic Board, PO Box 10-140, Wellington. This information should be sent by letter, fax or email – unfortunately we cannot accept this information by telephone.

Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act

Chiropractors should be aware that the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act has been passed by Parliament, and the Act's major provisions will come into force on 18 September 2004.

The legislation provides for important changes to the way discipline is administered within the profession, as well as placing important new responsibilities on practitioners themselves. In particular the legislation provides for:

- a. The retention of separate registration boards for each profession;
- b. Updated disciplinary provisions;

- c. Updated provisions to deal with impaired practitioners;
- d. Empowering boards to monitor ongoing competence of practitioners and to link this to annual practising certificates;
- e. Increased flexibility of regulation by empowering boards to set categories and boundaries of scopes of practice; and
- f. Providing statutory protection to professional quality assurance activities.

More information on the Act is available on the Board's website www.chiropracticboard.org.nz.

Chiropractic Board Website

Registered Chiropractors and other interested individuals are invited to view the Chiropractic Board's website on www.chiropracticboard.org.nz. The site is designed to assist those wanting:

1. Information on the role and work of the Chiropractic Board;
2. Details of registration procedures; and
3. Details of Board examinations.

The site provides an alternative means of contacting the Board, and it is hoped that the information provided will eliminate the need for many of the calls currently received by the Board's office.

The Board welcomes feedback on the site and asks that you contact the Secretary with any suggestions on how it might be further developed, or how it can better serve the interests of the profession.

Board Membership

The Chiropractic Board is made up as follows:

- Dr Julian White (*Chair*)
- Dr Simon Roughan (*Deputy Chair*)
- Ms Caryl Blomkvist
- Dr Lloyd Buscomb
- Ms Lorna Dyal
- Dr Clive Hill
- Dr John Loveday

Contact the Board

You can contact the Chiropractic Board:

By post PO Box 10 140, Wellington

By phone (04) 499 7979

By fax (04) 472 2350

By email karl.bale@regboards.co.nz

Website www.chiropracticboard.org.nz

Board Secretary Mr Karl Bale