



NEW ZEALAND
CHIROPRACTIC BOARD
TE POARI KAIKOROHITI O AOTEAROA

Board News

Newsletter

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Contact Us

www.chiropracticboard.org.nz

Registrar-General Manager

Angela Sinclair

registrar@chiropracticboard.org.nz

04 474 0703

Administrator

Leanne Davis

Admin@chiropracticboard.org.nz

04 474 0740

Fax 04 474 0709

Postal Address

PO Box 9644

Wellington 6146

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Update from the Board Chair

2016 has gotten off to a very busy start for the Board. In February we moved office locations to collocate with 9 other health regulatory Boards. Our new location at 22 Willeston Street in Wellington allows us to take advantage of greater efficiencies and collaboration. We have just completed our annual renewal process which is always a very busy time in the office.

The profession is growing and we ended the 2015/2016 certificate year with 580 chiropractors actively practicing chiropractic throughout New Zealand. I am privileged to have been appointed by the Minister for another term and honoured to have been re-elected as Chair at the Board's first meeting of the year. Emeritus Professor Stefan Pallister was re-elected to the Deputy Chair position and also appointed by the Minister for another term.

The Chair position is a busy and demanding role and in this newsletter we will be highlighting two matters that have required extra attention so far this year. The Board wishes you a safe and productive 2016/2017 practising year and reminds you to get in touch with the Registrar if you have any questions or concerns.

Kristin Grace, DC, DACBR
Chair, New Zealand Chiropractic Board

Advertising Policy

The Board would like to remind all practitioners that you are personally responsible for ensuring you are abiding by and practising within all Board policies. Recent news has focused on a letter sent to the NZMJ in the wake of similar allegations in Australia <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/78433012/claims-chiropractors-can-treat-adhd-allergies-misleading-customers--study>. In 2015 the Board consulted with the public, stakeholders and the profession and subsequently adopted a new Advertising Policy ensuring compliance with all relevant requirements and laws. This is available at <http://chiropracticboard.org.nz/Publications-Forms>. The Board's primary responsibility is the protection of

public health and safety; advertising that is seen to be misleading, sensational or relies on improper sources such as testimonials does not ensure public safety and is in breach of several policies and laws.

A pamphlet highlighting the main points of the Advertising Policy was included with your APC. The Board implores all practitioners to review the Advertising Policy and then closely assess all of your advertising materials- website, Facebook, flyers, handouts, print such as newspaper advertising, media advertising and business cards. Breaches of Board policy are and will continue to be taken seriously. If you identify problems with your advertising it is expected that you will take immediate action to rectify these errors.

Students in your practice

The Board has recently received a request to review “Student Placements” and the delegation of chiropractic patient care to students in training outside of the educational institution.

To ensure the profession is aware of the Board policy on this matter the Board’s reply to this request is being provided to all.

Section 2.1.1.17 of the Code of Ethics reads “*no activity that requires unique skill, knowledge, discretion and judgement of a chiropractor can be delegated.*”

- This section clearly ensures a chiropractor WILL NOT allow chiropractic patient history taking, examination, decision making or care to be provided by anyone who is not a registered chiropractor
- This section does NOT prohibit any OBSERVATIONAL learning opportunities
- The previous policy on student placements was superseded by the current Code of Ethics 2013 that was adopted following consultation with the public, wider stakeholders and the profession.

The Board’s paramount focus in all matters is public safety. After thorough discussion and carefully considering the matter further, the Board affirms the Code of Ethics statement 2.1.1.17. The Board is confident in the competence of registered practitioners and their ability to provide safe care. Under the



regulations of the Health Practitioner Competence Assurance Act (HPCA Act) it is illegal for non-registered health practitioners to perform high velocity low amplitude adjustments to the cervical spine, the Board notes this as Parliament acknowledging the skill required in chiropractic care and the inherent risk of unqualified people attempting this type of treatment. The Board considers its current Code of Ethics is in accordance with the restrictions and its legislative obligations.

The Board appreciates the importance of hands on teaching and respects the wealth of knowledge experienced chiropractors can provide outside of a traditional classroom environment, however the Board's focus must be on public safety. Educational institutions are best suited to ensure and regulate the activities of students, the Board encourages practitioners to participate in these programmes but please be aware that you, as a registered chiropractor, are bound by the Board's Code of Ethics.

If you have any questions on this or any other matters please feel free to contact the office.

Thank you,
Angela Sinclair
Registrar

Angela Sinclair
Registrar-General Manager
Chiropractic Board
Box 9644, Wellington 6141, New Zealand
Phone: (+64) (4) 474 0703
Fax: (+64) (4) 474 0709
Website: www.chiropracticboard.org.nz

The Board's new physical address will be Level 5, 22 Willeston Street, Wellington.

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