

Update August 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The Hypnotherapy Council of Australia (HCA) has now had its first Annual General Meeting (AGM), and thank you to all of those who participated at this special occasion, either in person or by proxy. It is fundamental to the structure of HCA that every entity has a voice and vote in all major decisions. Even if they cannot attend, each member entity is counted in decisions, so the National Board extends a sincere thank you to all of the delegates who took the time to organise a proxy when they were unable to attend. HCA's membership now numbers 30 organisations, and is receiving enquiries about membership from other organisations.

At the AGM, the delegates were involved in some very important discussions about Ethics and Marketing. Concerns were expressed about some marketing strategies that are being used in the wider profession, but thankfully, most concerns are about non-members. During discussions, delegates at the meeting were also made aware of the new Consumer and Competition Act (CCA), an Australian Government Federal Act that replaces the old Fair Trading Act. It contains clauses about the promotion, claims and advertising of goods and services, and is such that if these are misleading or deceptive, or *likely to mislead or to deceive, whether intentional or not*, the provider may be prosecuted under the law.

The meeting proceeded to work their way through the draft Ethical Handbook which also contained Media and Marketing Guidelines. This was a process very similar to the one that helped to successfully refine the HCA Constitution in 2010. As a result of the input from the delegates, the document was adjusted to deal with relevant issues, and it is hoped that after due process, this document will be put to the HCA Member Entities for voting within the next few months.

This will be another corner stone of the HCA foundations.

The elections of the National Board members went smoothly at the AGM, and as there was no contest for any of the positions, all nominees were elected. Congratulations to the returning Board members: Antoine Matarasso (AHA) who now resumes his original role as HCA Vice President, to Belinda Hulstrom (AACHP) as HCA Secretary, and Jim Pocock (NATCOM) as a Board Member. We also now welcome an addition to the team with Elizabeth Bullock (PCHA) joining as a Board Member.

At the August National Board Meeting the week after the AGM, Ian Lochlin (AAPHAN) tendered his resignation from the National Board, and the Board accepted it reluctantly. We thank Ian for all his support and contributions over the last year. The Board has now filled the casual vacancy as per the Constitution, and appointed Chris Davis from AAPHAN as Ian's replacement. Chris will serve out the remainder of Ian's term.

During the lead up to the AGM, it became apparent that once again some members are having trouble with emails. Viruses aside, there still seems to be occasional difficulty in members receiving communications. These emails are important, and keep our members and stakeholders up to date with important information. So, to save emails ending up in spam, we would recommend you cut and paste the following address into your 'safe' list on the computer: hypnotherapy.council.australia@gmail.com. We also ask that this Gmail address is not used for your outgoing mail to us, (spam included), and that to contact the HCA, you use secretary@hypnotherapycouncilofaustralia.com. Thank you for your help with this.

We are now into the new financial year, and we appreciate that most members were so prompt with their annual fee payments. It was a matter of unusual circumstance that this year, the previous year's annual fee and the current one were so close in timing, but as I am sure you would understand, with the start up of the HCA, this was unavoidable. We thank you for your forbearance with this. In future, annual fees will be due as they should, at the end of each Financial Year.

If your organisation is not yet a member of HCA, and would like to join, please contact us to discuss how this may be achieved.

The National Board will continue to circulate the minutes of each monthly National Board meeting to HCA member entities, and the monthly Updates to the Profession continue to be sent to our HCA members and other stakeholders who have been involved in the evolution of the profession over the

years. This helps to keep everyone informed, and allows those who have not yet joined HCA the opportunity to keep up with the developments, and join if they wish to be a part of this progress. If you would like to contact the National Board about these or other matters, please feel free to do so via secretary@hypnotherapycouncilofaustralia.com or president@hypnotherapycouncilofaustralia.com.

Regards,
Margaret Kelly
President
Hypnotherapy Council of Australia

The HCA Mission:

'The Hypnotherapy Council of Australia (HCA) is the national peak body for Clinical Hypnotherapy in Australia. The HCA provides a cohesive identity for the diversity of hypnotherapy methodologies and promotes their professional and ethical practice for the benefit of the community.'