



Dear Colleagues,

The Hypnotherapy Council of Australia's (HCA) National Board met again on the 19th September, and it is moving steadily towards its goals. HCA is now an incorporated association, and we are waiting to hear back from the Australian Securities and Investment Commission regarding our application for the recognition of HCA as an Australian Registered Body.

As HCA's president, I would like to publicly thank all the members of the HCA's subcommittees who also give of their time for the benefit of all of us. It is their ideas that give the Board the information they need to make decisions. And, although the Board only needs an 85% agreement of the Board members to pass decisions, we strive for consensus, believing that this is in the best interests of the profession as a whole.

It is the intention of the Board to issue membership certificates to all HCA member entities, and this will happen after the payment of the annual fees, and the finalisation of the logo. The issue of HCA requiring an ABN (tax number) has been researched, and we have been advised that HCA does not require one at present.

According to the HCA constitution, the National Board sets the annual fees each year, and the Finance Subcommittee was appointed to formulate recommendations. The Finance Subcommittee returned its recommendation for our first budget, based on estimates of what would be reasonable to expect with regard to our activities in this first year, and a recommendation for the annual fee. The Board would like to especially acknowledge and thank the Finance Subcommittee members for their hard work, looking at various options, and exploring possibilities. Their report was detailed, and formed the basis of the Board's discussions. The National Board's deliberations then also included some initial feedback from members, and after consideration of all these circumstances, it led to the unanimous decision to accept a further option. A letter explaining this is being drafted, and will be sent out shortly to all HCA member entities.

The HCA website (www.hypnotherapycouncilofaustralia.com), continues to evolve and be refined. A full and updated list of member entities is listed on the HCA website under "Member Organisations", and all the HCA updates to the profession that are sent to all stakeholders will be added to the "Newsletter" section. Once your HCA member entity has established a link to the HCA homepage, please send an email to the Board (secretary@hypnotherapycouncilofaustralia.com), with "webmaster" in the subject line, and HCA will provide a reciprocal link from its "Links" page, back to your entity's website. Also, interested visitors can now find the "How to Join" information on the site, (which includes the criteria for membership), and further pages and information are being added each month. The Board is encouraged by the positive feedback it is receiving from members, and the continued support for the unity of the profession.

The Ethics Subcommittee has issued its first recommendations to the National Board, and will now meet again to expand on these to meet HCA's requirements. The Education Advisory Body Subcommittee also continues to meet to address the complicated issue of minimum standards.

With some of the structural basics now in hand for HCA, the National Board is also looking ahead to the next stages of its development, with the discussions that will need to be had regarding publicity, contact with other organisations and government bodies, the national register, provision of membership certificates etc. The HCA Constitution is acting as an important guide for the Board, and all the careful consideration that the ex-Working Group members and the attendees from the 2010 national meeting have put into it has been invaluable.

As much as we want all these things to be ready 'now', they do take time as we build this new national body from the ground up in consultation with, and with consideration for, the existing circumstances and diversity. Because whether we are accustomed to the idea or not, we need each other, and are learning to work together. The educational organisations bring us new practitioners, and the associations then continue to guide them in their professional life. One side of this profession cannot exist without the other. This new level of unity for our profession is ultimately for the benefit of our practitioners, and the firm establishment of credibility for Hypnotherapy itself.

The National Board meets again on the third Monday of October. To keep the profession informed, we continue to send updates each month to the national mailing list of stakeholders of the profession. We ask that you forward this update onto your own organisation's members to help us to better unite the profession, and help prevent misunderstandings that may otherwise slow the progress of the Hypnotherapy Profession.



In the spirit of continued transparency and fairness, the National Board will also be circulating the minutes of each monthly National Board meeting to the relevant personnel of the HCA member entities. 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 Margaret at president@hypnotherapycouncilofaustralia.com.

Change can be challenging sometimes, and it is gratifying to see and hear that so many actively support this new body and its hopes for the future. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming months.

Regards,
Margaret Kelly
President
Hypnotherapy Council of Australia Inc.