



Update to the Profession - September 2012

Dear Colleagues,

The Hypnotherapy Council of Australia (HCA) continues to meet monthly, managing ongoing issues as well as building the HCA foundations. The Board thanks the subcommittees for their ongoing work on developing those recommendations.

Implementation of HCA policy requires that certain procedures are followed as outlined by the HCA Constitution. Once the subcommittees have completed deliberations on a policy recommendation, it is submitted to the National Board. If 85% of the National Board agrees with the recommended policy, then a Special General Meeting (SGM) of delegates is called, and a copy of the policy and meeting details are sent to all the HCA members' delegates and relevant personnel.

This is about to happen with a policy named the Ethical Handbook. This document contains ethical, marketing and media guidelines for HCA and its members. Why do we need such a document?

Over time, comments and concerns have been relayed to the HCA National Board members about how some of the promotion is being done in this profession, and a few in our profession have been contacted by government bodies, questioning their advertising or practices. This Ethical Handbook gives clear guidelines of professional practice, as well as the responsibilities of HCA and its members. It also references some important and relevant Australian Law of which professionals need to be aware. This is an important document for the structural foundation of HCA. In addition, as the HCA continues to move forward towards the management of the Australian National Hypnotherapy Register, the establishment of an ethics policy is another essential step in that direction.

It is envisaged that the ethics subcommittee will be submitting this document to the National Board for the Board's October meeting, and if passed by the Board, a SGM will be called for later this year. As with the last SGM, it will be conducted by Skype. Policy requires an 85% agreement of weighted voting to be accepted. Notice of the SGM will be sent in proper time as per the HCA Constitution, once the due processes have been observed, so we recommend all our Members keep an eye on their emails.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) makes a report to the Australian Senate each year on the situation with Private Health Insurance. This year they are considering the very relevant inequitable practices of health funds, and the impact on allied providers and consumers. The HCA and some of our associations have made submissions to the ACCC on this issue.

We thank the HCA entities for getting their renewals through in time. Moreover, the treasurer appreciates that those who still have to send the last of their paperwork have it in today's mail (hint, hint!) Next year we will make it a simpler process, and the renewal form will be easier to find. This form provides HCA with member details, but also confirmation of HCA membership eligibility and status. Therefore, this is an important document that is very much a part of your renewal, so if you have not done so, please make sure you have submitted it. From now on, renewals will only be valid when both the payment and the form are received; one without the other will not be accepted. Please also remember to keep us up to date with any changes in contact details throughout the year, or you will miss out on important information.

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.

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

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.'*