

Update to the Profession, February 2013

Dear Colleagues,

The Hypnotherapy Council of Australia's (HCA) National Board met for the first time in 2013 on the 18th February. After a welcome break, the Board is now back in full swing, and determined to get the rest of the HCA foundations in place this year. HCA is of a unique structure, and it is our members who set the tone for our progress. We would like to thank all of our members who actively participate in our discussions, and provide the necessary feedback to allow this to happen.

Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Ageing received the HCA submission for the "Australian Government Review of Rebates for Private Health Insurance for Natural Therapies". The National Board would like to thank all of those who offered their support and signatures to this submission, and especially thank all of those who contributed research data or links to research that enabled us to develop a great submission. Although HCA has made submissions to government before, this one was especially time consuming, and as such, the National Board would like to acknowledge and thank Antoine Matarasso and Steve Carey who gave their time and energy freely to the preparation of this submission, including time over Christmas when the rest of us were taking a break. Thank you!

There is a major, non-hypnotherapy specific website that was brought to our attention recently for inaccurate and misleading statements about the requirements for this profession. Moreover, this is the second time this particular site has had to be corrected. There have also been individual sites contacted throughout the year as mistakes have been discovered. This, in conjunction with discussions on other key HCA websites at our recent National Board meeting, has led us to make this request of all our HCA members: Would you please have someone review your websites and downloads for currency and accuracy of information? Thank you. In these days of looking for recognition amongst the other professions, government and the public, and in view of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, it is important that all HCA member sites are regularly reviewed, their content kept up to date and accurate. This is both for yours and everyone's sake. Thank you for your help in this matter.

The Educational Advisory Body subcommittee has submitted their recommendations for ongoing education standards to the National Board. This document is now under consideration, and the Board hopes to be able to vote on it next month. At that time, if passed, the next step will be to present the document to the profession at a timely opportunity for you to vote on it as the HCA Constitutional policy requires. You will hear more from us next month about the status of this draft policy.

Another subcommittee is considering the national guidelines for practitioner supervision. We are aware that supervision is an operational matter for associations, and this will be respected during our deliberations. However, there is a need for such a policy, and we hope to have it ready for your consideration very soon.

There are various other matters being dealt with under the national agenda at the moment, including the steps required to manage the Australian National Hypnotherapy Register (ANHR). Further discussions on this matter are expected to take place shortly, and we will keep you advised of the progress.

As we are sure you realise, growing an association from the ground up is more challenging than running an established one, especially with the level of collaboration that is part of our structure. Yet our structure is working, and the foundations we build are strong and stable, enabling our profession to step forward in a unified way, while preserving the diversity so unusual in an established profession. Your ongoing feedback and support for those doing the work to build HCA is appreciated.

In the spirit of continued transparency and fairness, the National Board will continue to circulate 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.

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'