

Update to the Profession – May 2013

Dear Colleagues,

The Hypnotherapy Council of Australia's (HCA) National Board met again on the 25th May 2013. The Board is currently adjusting meeting dates to allow best attendance in conjunction with members other professional commitments, but will resume its normal schedule shortly.

The HCA **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) will be held on **Saturday 10th August 2013**, at the Y Hotel, Wentworth Avenue, Sydney. A 10am start will allow for morning travellers to arrive. (We believe the Sydney Surf to City Marathon is also being held in Sydney on Sunday 11th for those of you who may be interested in stretching your legs ☺)

The day will also include a Special General Meeting so that some items of policy can be voted on, and relevant matters discussed.

There are two office bearing and two ordinary board member positions up for election. Remember, all HCA entities have a vote, whether they attend in person or not, so please either attend, or give your proxy to another delegate who will be attending. Further details on Agendas, Special Resolutions, and Nomination and Proxy Forms will be circulated asap to all HCA delegates and relevant personnel, so please keep an eye on your emails over the coming weeks.

However, there is another important matter we wish to draw to your attention.

The HCA National Board, as well as a number of the HCA Entities, are receiving complaints about the conduct of some organisations.

Australian Consumer and Competition Commission (ACCC) legislation makes it quite clear that you must not mislead or deceive, or be likely to mislead or deceive, about your services or products (also see reference in the Handbook of Ethical Practice Version 10d).

We have several complaints that members of the public are still being told:

1. That this profession will be regulated by the Government in the next 12-18 months
2. That only those trained with a Government RTO qualification will be able to offer any Private Health Insurance rebates from any Health Fund to their clients.

This is misleading information, and this misunderstanding needs to stop before the ACCC steps in. When a member of the public makes enquiries, whether about which association to join, what they are allowed or not allowed to do, or what course they should study, please understand, they usually contact more than one organisation, and these days ask lots of questions. So frequently the "misunderstandings" become quite apparent, and only reflect poorly on those whose communication should be better.

All HCA Member Entities and their staff, students and practitioners, need to be mindful of the ACCC legislation regarding deliberate deceptive or misleading conduct, or conduct that is likely to mislead or deceive. This applies to information in literature, websites or in conversation. Such claims of breaches can be, and have been, reported to the ACCC. Also, the offering of guarantees, claims of statistics, and promised incomes are also covered by the law, and must comply fully with relevant legislative requirements or not be used.

So please, make sure the information that you or your organisation supplies is accurate. This reflects better on you, and the profession.

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, and this newsletter to stakeholders in the profession. If you would like to contact the National Board about any of these 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.'