



Update to the Profession: November/December 2012

Dear Colleagues,

This has been quite a year, and Christmas Season is fast approaching. The Hypnotherapy Council of Australia (HCA) National Board met again on 10 December 2012, and we are pleased to announce that the third cornerstone of HCA is now in place.

Our second HCA Special General Meeting for the year was held on 25th November 2012, where the Handbook of Ethical Practice was formally presented to our members for voting. At that meeting, 5 amendments were proposed, 4 were accepted, and the amended Handbook was passed by an overwhelming majority. The section that relates to the Guidelines for Past Life Regression was subsequently submitted to the insurer (whose policy stipulates this clause), for approval of the amended wording. The approval followed quickly, and as such, the Handbook was accepted as HCA policy, and circulated to our Member Entities and their relevant personal. If your entity did not receive this document, then you need to contact the Board immediately.

Just like the Minimum Standards passed in May this year, this Handbook is now part of policy, and forms part of the relationship between HCA and its members, and includes some minimum standards of conduct for practitioners. It also brings an awareness of some parts of federal law that many people may have been unaware of regarding advertising and promotion of products and services. Therefore, we advise all Member Entities to become familiar with the document. It has also been agreed by the National Board, that this Handbook may be reproduced by our members for their practitioners or students, but it must be reproduced in its entirety, and with the acknowledgement that it is a HCA document.

In November, the HCA Vice-President and President met with the approximately 70 Western Australian Hypnotherapists. They were a combination of members of AHA (WA), PHWA, and some non-association practitioners. At that meeting, the evolution and purpose of HCA was clarified, many myths dissolved, and the direction for the future explained. It was heart warming to see the support for HCA and its mission, but more importantly, the resulting benefits that this meeting has brought to the State's therapists.

A separate National Board subcommittee will now begin working on another cornerstone, the supervision guidelines. A lot of work has already been done in this area in the past, and this existing work will be the basis of the development of the national policy. Again, once it is ready, it will be put to the HCA Member Entities for consideration and voting. It is hoped that this particular piece of policy will be quickly achieved.

In the Federal Government's budget earlier this year, they announced a review of all Natural Therapies (including hypnotherapy) with respect to Private Health Insurance. In November, the Dept of Health and Ageing (DOHA) released the details of the review, and called for submissions from all the Natural Therapies' bodies, including HCA, to show efficacy, cost effectiveness and success of treatment of the modality. This submission requires published research to back up what we all know – hypnotherapy works and is cost effective. HCA is currently developing a submission on behalf of its members. We thank all of the HCA Member Entities who have put their support to this document, and agreed to be signatories. All the HCA Member Associations have signed on, and so represent all our practitioners.

If you know of relevant research that may support the case of hypnotherapy, could you please contact the Board at secretary@hypnotherapycouncilofaustralia.com with details? Thank you. Although the National Board is winding down for the Christmas break, a subcommittee will be continuing to work on the

submission over Christmas to meet the revised deadline of January, so the secretary's email site will still be monitored for relevant information to support this process.

The National Board is now otherwise winding down for the year, and will meet again in February 2013. Thank you all for your ongoing input, and support, of the processes of this peak body and the work of its Board members.

On behalf of the National Board, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas Season, and a successful 2013.

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.'