

Media release

November 2011

First national chiropractic data released

The first ever national data on chiropractic is now available with the release of the Chiropractic Board of Australia's information in the AHPRA and National Boards' 2011 annual report

The 'typical' chiropractor is under 50, male, and with 33% of practitioners based in New South Wales, according to data now published in the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National Boards' annual report.

The release of the 2010-11 annual report gives an essential, first-ever insight into Australia's 530,115 health practitioners across 10 professions regulated under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme). One in 44 Australians is a registered health practitioner.

As well as profiling the professions and practitioners, the report provides the first national data on notifications (complaints) involving health practitioners and the actions taken by national boards to protect public safety.

Chair of the Chiropractic Board of Australia, Dr Phil Donato, said the annual report demonstrated transparent and accountable reporting by AHPRA and the national board about their work in regulating the profession and protecting the public.

"The introduction of the National Scheme on 1 July 2010 represents an unparalleled reform of health practitioner regulation. This annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the national scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the national boards," Dr Donato said.

"There is now clear evidence that the national scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

Important information about the chiropractic profession published in the report includes:

- There were 4,350 chiropractors registered to practise in Australia on 30 June 2011
- 33% of chiropractors are based in New South Wales
- There are 998 students of chiropractic on the student register, about 1% of all registered students across the 10 professions
- Nearly 75% of chiropractors are aged under 50 and 65% of registrants are male
- 39 Victorian chiropractors have their registration endorsed for acupuncture
- There were 104 notifications lodged about registered chiropractors during the year (most not including concerns about advertising), representing notifications about 1.8% of all registered chiropractors

- Immediate action was taken on the registration of two practitioners during the year

The annual report is an important source of information about the Board's activities in 2010-11. Achievements for the Chiropractic Board of Australia during the year included; streamlined management of notifications (complaints), consultation on a proposed registration standard for limited registration for teaching and research and for limited registration in the public interest; preparations to review the Code of Conduct in 2012; developing policies and guidelines to support practitioners to meet the Board's registration standards; a detailed strategic planning process that identified and scheduled the Board's work and priorities in the next few years; developed a consultation framework; established a Continuing Professional Development Committee to support work in this area; and worked constructively with the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA), the accreditation authority for the chiropractic profession.

Dr Donato encouraged chiropractic practitioners, patients, employers, educators and the Australian community to read the 2010-11 annual report, published at www.ahpra.gov.au under *Legislation and publications > AHPRA publications*.

More information about the National Scheme

More summaries of annual report data are published on the AHPRA website and in the special edition of AHPRA report:

- [registrations](#)
- [criminal records checks](#)
- [notifications](#)
- [criminal record checks](#)
- [state and territory roundup: breakdown by profession and](#)
- [national information about other regulated health practitioner professions.](#)

For more information

- Refer to the [AHPRA Annual Report](#)
- Visit www.ahpra.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 8708 9001 (overseas callers)
- For media enquiries: (03) 8708 9200

**AHPRA and the National Boards are responsible for the management of notifications against practitioners across Australia, except in NSW, where the Health Professional Councils, supported by the Health Professions Council Authority (HPCA), are responsible.*