



**Chiropractic  
Council**  
of NSW

# **Chiropractic Council of NSW**

Annual Report 2017-18

# President's Message



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I am pleased to present the Chiropractic Council of New South Wales 2017/18 Annual Report.

The Council managed a lower number of complaints against NSW Chiropractors in this financial year. However misleading or inappropriate material published on a chiropractor's website or on social media remains a concern. The Council continues to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that chiropractic advertising and public profiles comply with the expectations of the National Board and AHPRA.

The Council remains committed to promoting good standards of ethical behaviour and practice for NSW chiropractors. As part of this commitment, in September 2017 the Council jointly hosted a forum with the Chiropractic Board of Australia to further inform chiropractors on the topics of advertising, continuing professional development, the code of conduct and the NSW/National Law.

The Council also met with the representatives of the Chiropractic Board of Australia to discuss areas of shared interest in the regulation of chiropractors in Australia. We look forward to collaborating with the Board on our regulatory activities in the coming year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Council members for their work over the last year. All our members have busy professional lives and must be recognised for their careful consideration of often complex matters.

A special thank you is extended to the retiring members of Council which include Dr Peter Cowie, a practitioner member of Council and Ms Pamela Soon, the legal member of Council. Both members have contributed greatly to the work of Council over many years and will be sorely missed.

Finally I must thank the Executive Officers and the staff of the Health Professional Councils Authority (HPCA) for their diligence and hard work throughout the year. Without them it would not be possible for the Council to undertake its work to protect the public.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne R Minter".

**Dr Wayne Minter AM**

President

Chiropractic Council of New South Wales

## Regulation of Chiropractors in 2017/18

# SNAPSHOT



### Practitioner information

**1,813**

chiropractors registered in NSW

2.4% more than last year

33.5% of registered chiropractors in Australia

**44**

NSW chiropractors had complaints made about them

19 less than last year

2.4% of registered chiropractors in NSW



### Complaints received

**45**

new complaints were received

23 less than last year

2 complaints were mandatory notifications

26.6% of complaints were about National Law breach (n 12) followed by:

- National Law offence – 11 complaints and
- clinical care – 5 complaints

**28.9%**

of complaints were from AHPRA (n 13) followed by:

- member of the public – 10 complaints and
- patient – 8 complaints



### Complaints managed

**38**

complaints were managed directly by the Council

2 less than last year

**11**

assessments and hearings were concluded

2 less than last year

**4**

immediate actions were considered or taken by Council

2 less than last year

**1**

1 outcome for closed complaints involved cancelled or suspended registration

3 involved conditions on practice

4 involved counselling or interview



### Practitioners monitored

**7**

cases were being actively monitored at year end

4 conduct

0 performance

3 health

## Council Members

Four members sit on the Chiropractic Council as prescribed by the National Law.

Registered chiropractic practitioner members:

- Dr Wayne Minter AM, BEc, BAppSc (Chiro), PG Dip, (NMS Rehabilitation), FICC
- Dr Lawrence Whitman BSc, DC Chiro
- Dr Peter Cowie OAM BAppSc (Chiro), FICC, FACC

Legal member:

- Ms Pamela Soon BCom, LLB, LLM, EMPA

The NSW Governor appointed Dr Wayne Minter AM as the President and Dr Lawrence Whitman as the Deputy President of the Chiropractic Council.

## Executive Officer

Mrs Maricel O'Farrell is the current Executive Officer for the Chiropractic Council. Ms Sarah Carroll and Ms Rebecca Greenwood also provided Executive Officer support to Council during the year. Their work is acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. The Executive Officer leads a team that works directly and indirectly with the Council as part of the HPCA Combined Councils Team.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

## Council Meeting Attendance

The Chiropractic Council met eleven times during the year.

**Table i: Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and term of office**

| Member                                 | Meetings Attended | Meetings Eligible to Attend | Date of First Appointment | Current Term of Office          |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Dr Wayne Minter AM - President         | 6                 | 7                           | 1 July 2017               | 1 July 2017 – 20 June 2020      |
| Dr Lawrence Whitman - Deputy President | 11                | 11                          | 6 March 2013              | 6 March 2013 – 30 June 2018     |
| Dr Peter Cowie OAM                     | 10                | 11                          | 1 July 2015               | 1 July 2015 – 30 June 2018      |
| Ms Pamela Soon                         | 10                | 11                          | 16 November 2016          | 16 November 2016 – 30 June 2018 |

Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

## Regulatory Committees and Panels

The National Law sets out the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panels
- Performance Review Panels

## Part 2: Reports from Health Professional Councils

The Chiropractic Council appointed Impaired Registrants Panels during the year with membership as shown in Table ii.

**Table ii: Chiropractic Council Regulatory Committees and Panels**

| Impaired Registrants Panels |
|-----------------------------|
| Dr Susan Messner            |
| Dr Karen Arnold             |
| Dr Julie Uren               |
| Dr Geoffrey Wynn            |
| Dr Daniel Kostur            |

### Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Chiropractic Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

### Meetings and Events

The Chiropractic Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

**Table iii: Chiropractic Council representation at meetings and events**

| Name of Meeting / Event                                        | Attended By                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| National Board Chairs and NSW Council Presidents joint meeting | Dr Wayne Minter – President            |
| AHPRA's Stakeholder Forum                                      | Dr Lawrence Whitman – Deputy President |

### Overseas Travel

The Chiropractic Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

### Remuneration

Council members received the following remuneration.

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| President        | \$2,336 per annum |
| Deputy President | \$1,752 per annum |
| Council Members  | \$1,752 per annum |

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

### Education and Research Account

The Chiropractic Council maintains an Education and Research account. This helps fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that can lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund relevant research activity including both Council specific initiatives and collaborative projects.

A grant of \$3,000 was approved from the Education and Research account to support a Chiropractors' Association of Australia NSW course 'Claims, Communication and Complaints: What's the connection?' held on 25 June 2017 and paid in 2017/18.

### Financial Management

The Chiropractic Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

| <b>Accounts Performance 2017/18</b>                                             | <b>\$</b>      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Revenue                                                                         | 335,093        |
| Operating expenditure                                                           | 235,575        |
| Gain / (loss) on disposal                                                       | [41]           |
| <b>Net result</b>                                                               | <b>99,477</b>  |
| <b>Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b> | <b>859,961</b> |

\* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of \$18,798.

The Chiropractic Council's budget for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 is as follows.

| <b>Budget 2018/19</b> | <b>\$</b>      |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Revenue               | 415,688        |
| Operating expenditure | 443,696        |
| <b>Net result</b>     | <b>-28,008</b> |

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.