

The Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA) held its Board of Directors' Meeting on 17 October 2021

The CCEA held its second in-session board meeting for 2021 on 17 October. Due to the ongoing impacts of the global pandemic, the CCEA Board held its meeting via videoconference.

Governance

The CCEA Board considered the following at its October meeting:

- The 2020-21 finance report and current financial position.
- Review and approval of the 2021 audited financial statements.
- Strategic matters, including the status of CCEA contracts and cultural safety training.
- Consideration of the composition of CCEA committees.
- Update on the successful application for charity registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC).
- Engagement and collaboration with stakeholders via important domestic and international forums, including the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF), the Councils on Chiropractic Education International (CCEI) and the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC).
- Assessment of the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the external environment, and internally on the CCEA, as well as future planning across all functions of the business.

Since the last meeting, there has been significant change on the CCEA Board.

Dr Michael Shobbrook was re-elected as Deputy Chairperson, Dr Scott Charlton was elected to fill the casual vacancy Treasurer position and Dr Corrian Poelsma has been appointed to the Executive Committee. The board acknowledged the work of Ms Wendy Zernike with the conclusion of her term on the Executive Committee. Ms Zernike remains a director on the board.

Since the last meeting in May, new board appointments include Dr Barrett Losco, Dr Scott Charlton, Dr Tim Cooper, Associate Professor Rosemary Giuriato and Clinical Professor Fiona Stoker.

At the October meeting, the board acknowledged the contributions of Dr Peter Cowie OAM, Dr Dawn Dane and Dr Noel Dawson as outgoing directors.



Dr Cowie sitting in his captain's office chair – a retirement gift from the CCEA

Dr Cowie was awarded an Honorary Fellowship for his extraordinary contributions to accreditation and the chiropractic profession. He was involved in facilitating the consensus conference in 1999 that led to the formation of a single accreditation body, the CCEA. Dr Cowie was a member of the CCEA Accreditation Committee for 18 years and has been involved in the accreditation of every Australasian chiropractic educational institution during that time. He held the position of Treasurer with the CCEA for 11 years.

Dr Noel Dawson retired from the CCEA Board on his 80th birthday. He had been involved in 14 site evaluation teams. The board thanked him for his work in chiropractic accreditation and with the CCEA.

The CCEA has also seen change on the Accreditation Committee. Dr Sandy Bansal joined the committee in October. Dr Scott Charlton returned to the committee for a new term. The Accreditation Committee thanked Dr Cowie and Dr Kelly Holt as outgoing members.

The board reappointed Associate Professor Rosemary Giuriato and Dr Christopher Hodgetts to the Chiropractic Overseas Assessment Committee (COAC).

Since the last meeting, Dr Stacey Janssen has moved into the Executive Officer role following the departure of Ms Caroline Khalil.

Program accreditation activity

- The chair of the Accreditation Committee, Emeritus Professor Pallister, briefed the board on accreditation activity.
- The CCEA Board deemed that the Australian Chiropractic College is making satisfactory progress towards achieving accreditation of the chiropractic program.
- The board approved accreditation cycle extensions for the HanSeo University and Tokyo College of Chiropractic programs until June and November 2022, respectively. Both programs are currently in teach out.
- With the acceptance of a satisfactory self-evaluation report from the New Zealand College of Chiropractic, the board approved progression to a site visit.
- The RMIT University site evaluation will progress at the earliest opportunity.
- The board noted the prioritisation of accreditation activity in the pipeline for the coming 12 months.

Qualification and Skills Assessment

- The chair of the COAC briefed the board on activity and matters arising.
- Activity had focussed on quality improvement, including preparing for the implementation of external moderation of oral clinical cases examinations in 2022.
- Consideration was given to the status of all candidates, and the individual management of candidates' assessment processes due to the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 across the sector.

COVID-19

The CCEA continues to engage the strategies developed to manage the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. This includes:

- engagement with programs through an established community-of-practice network for currently accredited programs in Australia and New Zealand;
- agile monitoring of programs and reporting; and
- regular recurring meetings with reporting to joint boards – the Chiropractic Board of Australia and the New Zealand Chiropractic Board.

Overseas qualified practitioners continue to be offered assessments at CCEA assessment venues, and candidates are progressing through the pipeline for Stage 1 and Stage 2. CCEA continues to closely monitor the border requirements for Australia, New Zealand and other countries, and manage assessments accordingly.