

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15



---

CHIROPRACTIC COUNCIL  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Chiropractic Council  
of New South Wales*

I am pleased to introduce the Chiropractic Council of NSW's report for 2015. This report gives an overview of the Council's work over the past year and the achievements for the Council in 2015.

## **Achievements**

The Council was pleased to bring to an appropriate conclusion a long-running case which required extensive work by the HCCC, and consultation and cooperation with the Osteopathy Council, as the practitioner had dual registration. This case illustrated why the Chiropractic profession needs effective regulation to ensure that appropriate action can be taken against practitioners that place the public at risk of harm.

Opportunities to assist the profession with further learning have been created through collaboration with professional bodies and universities. An approach to reduce complaints by facilitating further education for practitioners in areas such as record keeping, boundaries and communication is seen by the Council as part of its role in protecting the public. Over the past year there was a marginal increase in complaints. This report goes into more detail about these.

The Council is aware that with any increase in the size of the profession, there may well be an increase in the number of complaints, but it is determined to reduce complaints through education of the profession.

Again, HPCA provided the Chiropractic Council with support to perform its regulatory and legislative functions. The Council is appreciative of the efforts of HPCA staff.

The Council is pleased to welcome Dr Peter Cowie, who rejoins as a Practitioner Member after a three-year absence. Dr Cowie's extensive knowledge, as well as his experience of the legislation and processes involved, will be of great assistance to the Council in protecting the public.

## **Future plans**

The Council has initiated a study of the history and classification of complaints relating to the profession. By creating a matrix of severity versus frequency of complaints, it is hoped we can more effectively target those areas which require more attention to aid prevention through planning and education.

In closing I would like to extend my gratitude to all the members of the Council for their diligence over the last year, especially to Dr Bryce Conrad, who has served as Deputy President for the last three years. Dr Conrad now leaves us to spend more time with his young and growing family. We wish him well and thank him for his wise and insightful advice.

I and my fellow Council members look forward to the challenges over the next year in regards to managing complaints about chiropractic practitioners' conduct, health and performance.

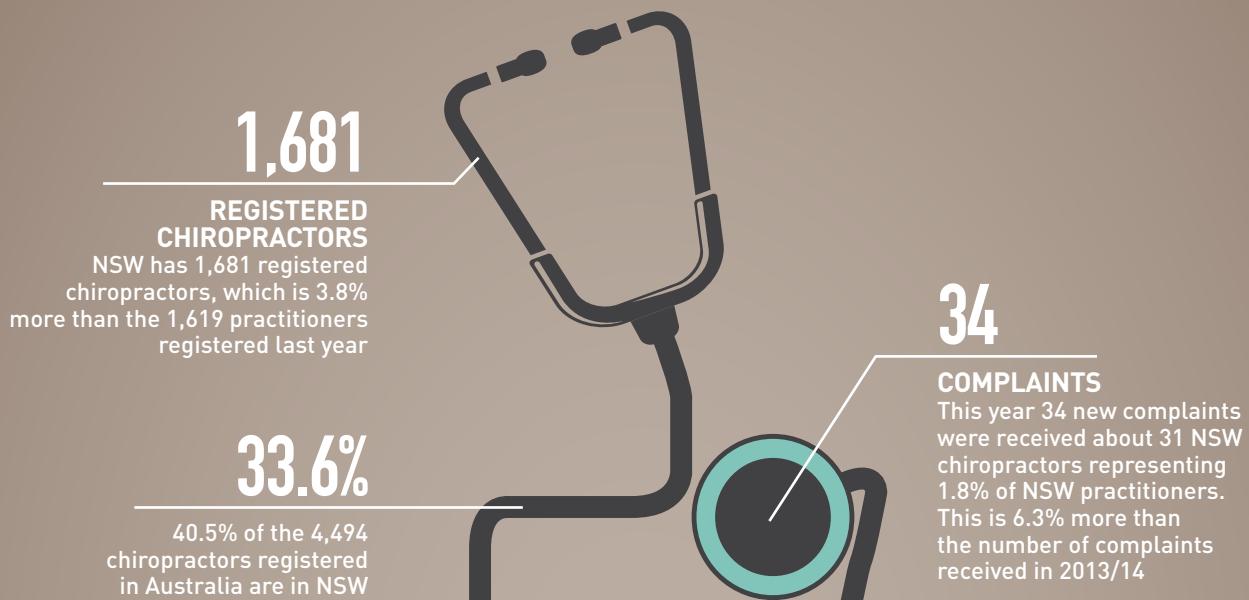
A handwritten signature in black ink.

**(Dr) Anthony Richards**

President

Chiropractic Council of NSW

## REGULATION OF CHIROPRACTORS IN 2014/15 YEAR IN SUMMARY



## **Regulation of Chiropractors in NSW in 2014/15**

### **Year in summary**

NSW has 1,681 registered chiropractors, which is 3.8% more than the 1,619 practitioners registered last year and 33.6% of chiropractors registered to practise in Australia.

This year 34 new complaints were received about 31 NSW chiropractors representing 1.8% of NSW registered chiropractors. This is 6.3% more than the number of complaints received about NSW registered chiropractors in 2013/14.

Complaints about NSW chiropractors included:

- 23 related to conduct – 67.7%
- 10 related to performance – 29.4%
- 1 related to health/impairment – 2.9%.

No mandatory notifications were received.

Complaints were made by:

- 8 patients - 23.5%
- 6 other agencies 17.7%
- 5 members of the public – 14.7%
- 3 relatives of patient or practitioner - 8.8%
- 3 other health practitioners – 8.8%
- 2 insurance companies – 5.9%
- 2 self reports – 5.9%
- 1 employer - 2.9%
- 4 various other sources including anonymous complaints – 11.8%.

A total of 47 complaints were managed during the reporting period, including 13 carried over from 2013/14.

One complaint involved a Council Inquiry and six involved practitioner assessment/interview or counselling.

Ten practitioners were monitored for compliance with order/conditions during the reporting period.

Thirty complaints were closed during the year with outcomes including:

- 1 conditions on registration
- 1 reprimand
- 6 counselling
- 3 referrals to another body
- 5 discontinued following consultation with the HCCC
- 11 no further action
- 2 no jurisdiction to act
- 1 refund to patient.

## Council Membership

Section 41E of the Law prescribes that there are four members of the Chiropractic Council of NSW appointed by the Governor.

Members who are registered chiropractors:

- Dr Anthony Richards , BAppSc (Chiro) - President
- Dr Bryce Conrad, BChSC , MChiro - Deputy President
- Dr Lawrence Whitman, BSc DC Chiro

Community member:

- Ms Suzanne Tay BA (Macq), BLaws (Macq), MLaws (Syd), Cert Counselling (JNInstitute) - Legal member

No new members were appointed and no members retired during the year.

At the end of June 2015 one member, Dr Bryce Conrad, retired.

## Attendance at Council meetings

The Chiropractic Council met 11 times. The Council did not meet in January 2015. Attendance was as follows.

Member	Meetings Attended	Meetings Eligible to Attend
Dr Anthony Richards	11	11
Dr Bryce Conrad	10	11
Dr Lawrence Whitman	10	11
Ms Suzanne Tay	8	11

## Executive Officer

The Chiropractic Council was supported by the Executive Officer, Amanda McEacharn and 1.5 FTE staff allocation. Isabel Anastasiadis and Brad Skidmore provided Executive Officer support in the absence of Ms McEacharn. The Executive Officer and support staff are employed by the HPCA.

## Committees of Council

Section 41F of the Law provides that the Council may establish committees to assist it with the exercise of its functions. Members of committees need not be Council members. The Chiropractic Council did not appoint any committees during the reporting period.

## Regulatory committees and panels

Part 8 of the Law prescribes the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities. They include Assessment Committees, Impaired Registrants Panels and Performance Review Panels.

The Chiropractic Council did not establish any of these bodies during the reporting period.

## Meetings and conferences

The Chiropractic Council was not represented at the following meetings during the reporting period.

Name	Attendance
Council Presidents' Forum – bi-monthly meetings	Dr Anthony Richards
Council Presidents' Forum meeting with the NSW Minister for Health	
Meeting with AHPRA Agency Management Committee	

## Overseas travel

There was no overseas travel during the reporting period.

## Council Communications

The Chiropractic Council website is the principal medium used for communicating information to chiropractors, chiropractic students and the community. The website includes links to other key bodies in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. Further information may be accessed on the Council's website at [www.chiropracticcouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.chiropracticcouncil.nsw.gov.au).

## Remuneration

Remuneration for members of the Council is as follows:

President	\$2,336 per annum
Members	\$1,752 per annum

In addition, Council members receive sitting fees of \$448 per day and \$218 per half day for the conduct of Council Inquiries and \$256 per day and \$128 per half day for attendance at committee meetings and other regulatory activities, if held on a day other than the monthly Council meeting. Council members are reimbursed for expenses incurred when travelling on official business at Council direction.

Members of panels and Tribunals also receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses.

## Financial Management

The Chiropractic Council's accounts performance as reported in the Financial Statements is as follows.

Accounts Performance 2014/15	\$
Revenue	207,384
Operating expenditure	207,925
Gain/(loss) on disposal	(1,996)
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(2,537)</b>
<b>Net cash reserves</b> (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)	<b>793,998</b>

\* Included in the net cash reserves is Education and Research bank account balance of: \$23,432

The Chiropractic Council's budget for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 is as follows.

Budget 2015/16	\$
Operating expenditure	241,557
Revenue	221,542
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(20,015)</b>

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