

# ACA Policy on Education of Chiropractors

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1. The ACA supports chiropractic education and training which:
  - ensures that the Competency Standards are aimed at entry level into the profession and represent what the public would reasonably expect of a chiropractor in Australasia;
  - ensures that chiropractors are qualified to practice independently and ethically within the scope as defined by National Standards, Codes and Guidelines in the Australian regulatory environment;
  - supports the development of skills and behaviours to ensure compliance with the Code of Conduct for registered health practitioners which seeks to assist and support chiropractors to deliver safe and effective health services within an ethical framework;
  - equips chiropractors to work effectively and collaboratively to deliver health and quality of life outcomes for patients; and
  - supports the development of research skills to improve the health and wellbeing of people and innovations in care.
2. The ACA supports the profession's approved chiropractic qualifications awarded by accredited programs at CQUniversity, Macquarie University, Murdoch University and RMIT University as well as programs offered by other tertiary institutions that are undergoing initial accreditation, provided such programs remain accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA) Ltd or other accrediting agencies acceptable to the Association. The ACA will determine the extent of support offered and reserves the right to withdraw its supports as determined by the ACA Board.
3. The ACA recognises the need for professional accreditation of chiropractic programs by an independent and nationally recognised body such as the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA) Ltd. This body is tasked with ensuring high education standards in programs so that graduates achieve the required competencies before entering the profession.

4. It is the ACA's preference that tertiary institutions providing first professional degrees in chiropractic -
  - assess students for entry on criteria other than academic alone;
  - provide students with patient contact early in the program;
  - maintain parity with international standards of chiropractic education;
  - maintain considerable input from the profession at large;
  - introduce competency-based assessment
    - (i) as a formative assessment during the final clinical years; and,
    - (ii) as summative assessment at the end of each first professional course in chiropractic;
  - appoint trained, external and independent assessors drawn from the profession, to assist with formative and summative competency-based assessment; and
  - appoint at least two leading professionals with in-depth knowledge of the ACA's policies to serve on an advisory committee for its chiropractic program. The ACA will work with each institution to assist in this process.
5. The ACA strongly supports continuing professional development (CPD) for all chiropractors that meets and/or exceeds the Chiropractic Board of Australia's requirements. It is the ACA's position that CPD assists chiropractors to maintain, improve and broaden their knowledge, expertise and competence, and develop the personal and professional qualities needed to practise their profession.
6. In addition to CPD, the ACA encourages chiropractors in the acquisition of postgraduate education and training, recognising that this brings advanced knowledge, skills and techniques and procedures to the profession. Postgraduate education and training also helps to promote the highest possible clinical standards for chiropractors. The ACA supports the translation of current best-evidence into clinical practice.
7. The ACA has established the Australasian Institute of Chiropractic Education (AICE) to support advanced learning pathways in the field of chiropractic. The foundation of AICE are the clinical interest groups and special interest groups of ACA.
8. Groups of chiropractors with postgraduate education and training in similar areas will form special interest groups. The ACA supports, endorses and encourages chiropractors with advanced learning and knowledge to participate in special interest groups.
9. It is the ACA's position that chiropractic education and training, clinical practice and management need to reflect the biopsychosocial model of healthcare and be underpinned by biologically plausible theories and peer-reviewed research.