

24 September 2021

The Hon Greg Hunt MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I write to you on behalf of the Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) to reiterate our strong support of the Australian Government's non-mandatory approach to the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. The ACA also supports the view of the Australian government that lockdowns are not a long-term sustainable strategy in managing COVID-19, given their significant economic, mental health and societal impacts.

The national COVID-19 vaccination effort is heading towards the target of (at least) 80% of the adult population vaccinated. The ACA supports these targets and further, acknowledges that vaccination is an essential strategy in diminishing the burden of COVID-19 and we strongly encourage our members to consider vaccination. This would be in keeping with healthcare evidence and policy, community sentiment, and diminishing the burden on the broader health system.

The ACA calls on policy makers to not mandate vaccination for chiropractors in private practice.

The ACA acknowledges that healthcare mandates are a complex issue. Chiropractors are limited to providing patient care within private practice and outside of the frontline hospital, community care, and aged-care facilities.

Whilst supporting that informed personal choice is a fundamental component of best practice healthcare, the ACA acknowledges that vaccination for COVID-19 as a primary public health initiative, is in the best interests of the Australian public.

Individual practitioners are of course entitled to hold personal beliefs, but as regulated healthcare professionals their interactions with the public are legally bound not to contradict or counter public health campaigns. Our members understand their obligations and requirements under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Law) as regulated by the Chiropractic Board of Australia and AHPRA.

To further reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread, the ACA continues to advise members of the following, regardless of their vaccination status:

1. Unvaccinated practitioners and staff commit to routine rapid antigen testing (RAT) as required by a relevant government authority. For example, the NSW Government [Framework for the Provision of Rapid Antigen Screening for COVID-19 in Clinical and Non-Clinical Settings](#).
Currently, Rapid antigen testing must be supervised by a health practitioner as defined in Section 3 of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. Paramedics were not included in the definition of Health Practitioner in the Act but have been specified as a suitable health practitioner for the purposes of supply and use of rapid antigen tests. The ACA would like to see this extended all registered health practitioners, including chiropractors.
2. Continued compliance with orders or directions about use of PPE, use of QR codes, practice set up appropriate pre-appointment screening. For example, [Department of Health and Human Services Victoria | Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) - coronavirus \(COVID-19\) \(dhhs.vic.gov.au\)](#)
3. Each practice will continue to implement an appropriate policy of compliance and recording in accordance with jurisdictional requirements.
4. Patients are encouraged to ask questions in order to satisfy any concerns they may have about the vaccination status of their chiropractor. This may include referral to another chiropractor if requested.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Anthony Coxon
ACA President