

Dr. John Reggars awarded the Order of Australia Medal

On Australia day 2013 Dr. John Reggars, COCA Vice President and CEO was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to chiropractic. His award was for his contribution to COCA, the Chiropractors Board of Victoria and for his pursuit of evidence based practice within chiropractic practice.

As a member and Chair of the Chiropractors Registration Board of Victoria.

John was appointed to this Board as a member in about 2003 and he was later appointed Chair in about 2006. He served in this role until 2009. The major role of the Board was to protect the public. Dr Reggars contribution to this role was well beyond what was expected. He served on the Board's Education and Standard's Committee and also as an assessor of chiropractic programs. He was committed to improving the delivery of undergraduate education. Dr Reggars was fearless in this role and called to account the chiropractic programs and their standards when they were in doubt.

As Chair of the Chiropractors Registration Board he was determined to make sure that the Board developed Regulations and Guidelines that would protect the public and also improve the image of the profession. This strong guidance approach was met with mixed response from the profession but he was determined to do something about it. It is against this backdrop that John Reggars started his battle to modernise, regulate and improve the chiropractic profession particularly in Victoria.

His achievements in introducing debate and new Practice Guidelines were the most profound change for the profession since Registration occurred in 1979. Dr Reggars embraced Evidence Based Practice as his yardstick and challenged detractors to show the Board the data not just ideological beliefs. His efforts saw an increase in debate, standards of teaching rose and standards of clinical practice improved.

It is safe to say that during John's time as President of the Registration Board there was an unprecedented level of innovation and activity in the development of Registration Board Policy, Standards and Practice Guidelines. Notably these were in the area of the care of children, appropriate use of therapeutic modalities, application of evidence based protocols to patient management and records management.

As an Executive Member and President, Chiropractic & Osteopathic College of Australasia (COCA) (Pro bono). Currently Vice- President and CEO.

Dr Reggars was elected to the Board of COCA in about 1994 and became National President later in 1996 a position he held until 2000. Thereafter Dr Reggars has held continuous positions of Executive member, Vice President and Chief Executive Officer. He is currently CEO and Honorary Vice- President. During his 18 years continuous service Dr Reggars stood out by his stewardship which led to an expanding COCA from a few hundred members to now in 2012 over 1200. This growth of COCA was a team effort but also directly related to Dr. Reggars leadership. He was and is an important member of the COCA executive as he has a very good knowledge of Directors responsibilities and sound financial management. Importantly, Dr Reggars directed COCA down a path committed to evidence based practice (EBP). This is important because COCA and its members have embraced EBP and this allowed the organisation to advocate for change. Dr Reggars has achieved this and COCA is

now an independent voice of science and reason from the Chiropractic profession. For his efforts Dr Reggars was made a Life Member of COCA in 2004 an honour shared by only a handful of others. He has contributed thousands of hours of pro bono time to all positions held at COCA.

It is worth dwelling on some of Dr Reggars individual achievements in his various pro bono roles at COCA.

- He has authored several risk management training modules which concentrate on safe and effective clinical practice. These modules have proved very popular and have enhanced public safety and health.
- He secured professional indemnity insurance for COCA members in the early part of the last decade at a time when insurance companies would not take on the profession. He did this by guaranteeing that COCA members would improve their risk management skills. He achieved this by writing the risk management modules and by developing a program whereby members undertook the training. This insurance coverage still continues to this day.

In conclusion, Dr Reggars has made a fine contribution to the chiropractic profession and to public health.

His Australian Honours award is thoroughly deserved. Congratulations John.