

Statement to the ACA Membership Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination

15 September 2021

The ACA reiterates its support of the Australian Government's non-mandatory approach to the COVID-19 vaccination rollout and believes that informed personal choice is a fundamental component of best practice healthcare. The ACA 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 ACA calls on policy makers to allow all chiropractors the right to choose and does not support mandatory vaccination for chiropractors in private practice.

Over the past 18 months, State and Federal emergency powers have come into force that have been used with the aim of curtailing the spread of disease and protecting the community. These laws have been active since last March as the legal instrument that allows authorities to enforce a range of public health orders, including lockdowns, mandatory mask wearing, mandatory testing for some professions, curfews, 14-day quarantine and other measures deemed appropriate.

The profession has continued to both observe and comply with these regulations - ensuring we are playing our part in navigating our way out of the pandemic.

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 acknowledges that vaccination is an important strategy in diminishing the burden of COVID-19. As a profession we must reflect on the current healthcare environment and community sentiment. Individuals are of course entitled to hold personal beliefs, but as regulated healthcare professionals they must ensure that their actions do not contradict or counter public health campaigns.

The ACA encourages members to continue with a biopsychosocial approach with all patients and consider lifestyle and other appropriate measures to build health and wellbeing in addition to public health strategies.

As an organisation, we have a diversity of opinions and beliefs. The ACA will provide further guidance and support to enable you as a healthcare provider to respond appropriately as the regulatory environment evolves.