To whom this may concern,

There is a large part of the new national board guidelines that have practitioners across the country questioning the motives behind the recommendations of the new board.

As a country do we want to limit the scope of practice of Chiropractic in Australia to only the 'treatment' of musculoskeletal disorders?? If so, this is a small vision.

Why would we want to limit parents *choice* to have their child checked (not necessarily adjusted, but checked) on a regular basis by their chiropractor?

"frequent chiropractic checks or treatment of children without symptoms or signs has not been supported by current available evidence and is currently not recommended..." 2.10.7

"practitioners ensure that all staff have undertaken a basic training course in suicide intervention skills or appropriate interventions for the particular type of risk" 5.2.1

Chiropractors receive training as part of their degree that helps them recognise possible yellow and red flags, which includes the recognition of people at risk of suicide and refer (under mandatory reporting) to an appropriate health service. Why would staff (CA's) also have to undertake training in this area? Who will provide the training? Who will pay for the cost of training? Who will accredit the training? Who will be responsible for continuing education in this area?

"The need for X-rays is supported in cases where “red flags” (suspected pathology) are elicited from the clinical history and examination" 2.6.2

Since the early years, Chiropractors have fought to retain their ability to xray clients, when indicated, to view safety, alignment and possible chronicity of problem the patient presents with.

I personally would not want to be adjusted by a gonstead practitioner without him/her taking xrays of my spine. Would you?? How is limiting practitioners choice to take xrays when they are indicated for proper case management 'in the best interests of the public?' If these new guidelines are put in place, how many more claims could potentially arise from patients being 'injured' when contraindications to manual adjusting that would normally be viewable on xray that will now never be detected? Is limiting sensible xray referrals by Doctors of Chiropractic of benefit to the public???

Chiropractic still stands as an independent, safe, cost effective way of managing musculoskletal disorders. One however cannot ignore the growing amount of support in the literature that positions chiropractic care as having a distinct wellness promoting benefit for the public.

Clients should have the choice to decide *if* and *when* chiropractic will become part of their lifestyle (along with other health promoting practices such as good diet, exercise and stress reduction).

The boards action to limit the scope of Registered Chiropractors, without proper consultation or adequate time to reply, or to attempt to change the manor of which practitioners practice who are doing so in a safe, competent, patient centered manor with the use sound clinical rationale is not in the best interests of the public, but a political stance that has the potential to undermine the core values of our profession.

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