Dear Chairperson, Sirs and Madams,

RE: Streamlinging of National Guidelines for Ease of Interpretation, Implementation & Facilitation of Practice Freedom

Let me thank you in advance for your time and attention. Please allow me to speak freely as a concerned chiropractor regarding the issue of national registration and the guidelines to be imposed in lieu of such registration. That the profession is coming to a greater unity is a grand and glorious thing with national registration availing to us the likelihood of increased recognition and subsequent acceptance of our much-misunderstood, often-maligned profession. That some of us are pro-actively seizing this opportunity to bring the profession to the next level is commendable. Stringency of guidelines are to be expected, and the scale and scope of the guidelines the National Board has put forth are equally commendable, no doubt sparking hot debate across certain pockets of the profession.

My appeal is that we consider that the proposed guidelines are overly restrictive in some aspects, in particular the guidelines on imaging, marketing and police/criminal clearances, notwithstanding the need for setting a high standard. Strict or lax guidelines, we can perhaps agree that those who will bring disrepute to the profession will bring it regardless of guidelines. Strict or lax guidelines, it is better that the profession prides itself on pro-active self-regulation instead of embracing a prescribed approach which can appear to be a negative, punitive incentive. May I thus bring to your attention the Chiropractic Code of Ethics prevailing in Singapore where the government authorities, strict as they are, have allowed the chiropractic profession to self-regulate. Their common law approach in using the terms "reasonable" in the last line of their Purpose preamble is noteworhty because Australia also has such legal parallels.

I have adapated such Code and have attached it to this e-mail and for your convenience. I do hope proposed guidelines will guide the profession via application of principles to promote self-regulation instead of an apodictic prescription which may end up self-defeating if it ends up boxing in the profession.

Respectfully yours,

Dr Eugene Khoo

Chiropractor

0424 198 986 Code of Ethics - Adapted from the SCA.doc