Draft Code for Professional practice for Chiropractors in Australia

gary smith to natboards

Attention: Dr Phillip Donato
Dear Dr Donato
Regarding the National Chiropractic Registration Board's Draft Code.
Firstly, I would like to say that I fully support the move to the National Registration Board and thank you and your colleagues for engaging in this important process. Being busy in Practice, I have briefly read the Draft Code and Dr Stanley Bolton's article "National Registration and accreditation Scheme for Chiropractors" in the March edition of the Chiropractic Journal of Australia.
I have noted that any submissions to the National Board regarding this draft need to be made by close of business today. I have some questions regarding the draft code.

Firstly, it is stated that "If a National Board develops a registration standard or a code or a guideline, it must ensure there is ranging consultation about its content". I received a copy of the draft with less than 3 weeks to reply, with the Easter break occurring in that time. Although inexperienced in these matters, this does seem quite a short period of time for someone with a vested interest, and busy in Practice, to reply. 1
Further, I noted that in the writing of this draft some bodies were approached for input eg Midwives. Were representatives from the Chiropractor's Association of Australia Board approached, to what degree was input sought and used from existing State Registration Boards? Will Chiropractor's "in the field" be asked for their input, other than now in this short time frame?

I am curious and have some questions regarding the rationale for some of the decision-making involved in the compilation of this Draft Code. Some areas of the Code are quite specific eg the treatment of non-symptomatic children and the taking of x-rays.
It is now a common contention that Chiropractic Adjustments directly stimulate the CNS and therefore impact positively on function and performance- why is it that children should not benefit from this?

It has been common practice for Chiropractors to utilize x-rays for reasons other than "Red Flags". Indeed, quite a component of my University training centred on the taking and interpretation of x-rays, so that we were safe, and to assist us in developing an appropriate course and type of care, suitable exercise regimes and lifestyle advice. When did this change?

X Ray.

Through my 13 tears in Practice I have always well exceeded my CPD requirements, with a large proportion of Cat A. I have undertaken several courses in Paediatrics and in the Neurological basis of Chiropractic Practice. Considering the efficacy of pro-active Chiropractic care in helping people , including children to function better, and the value that x-rays play in assisting the Chiropractor to provide better care, I am therefore surprised by the above aspects of the Draft Code.
In conclusion, there are obviously many contingencies to consider and I thank you in your preparation of this draft. As a stake-holder however I have some concerns as briefly expressed and request these be considered.
Also, can the consultation process not be extended and expanded to include further discussion, consideration and collaboration?

Respectfully yours

Gary Smith
Dip Teach (Health and P.E.) BSc (Anatomy) Masters in Chiropractic