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Dear Dr Donato,

Re: Draft Code of Professional Practice for Chiropractors in Australia

I wish to respond to the recent guidelines as they are currently being presented to the profession by the National Chiropractic Board.

I question the process that has created these guidelines. Having recently moved from Victoria to Queensland, it seems like a rehash of the draft that was unanimously rejected by the profession 18 months ago, now being presented at national level.

The board that drew up the document is way out of step with chiropractic in Australia, so much so that the restrictions these guidelines propose on the profession amounts to a breach of our professional freedom.

No other National Professional Board has seen fit to include such broad-ranging restrictions and defining guidelines on their specific professions as has the Chiropractors Board of Australia. Why does the Chiropractic board propose such tight regulation on the profession where other professional boards do not? 2

I note also that there is marked duplication between this document and the cross professional code. Where the tone of the cross-professional code is positive, encouraging and inspiring, the general tone of this guideline is demeaning to the profession and oppressive. It appears to assume poor conduct by chiropractors thus necessitating proscriptive directions in all areas of practice. (See my attached specific concerns) 1

I notice that the National Board released the draft guidelines for consultation with a three week opportunity for submissions. I believe this is unacceptable given the boards requirement for "wide-ranging consultation" across the profession and the major stake-holders. 3

I believe that given the significant lack of transparency and consultation during the creation of these guidelines together with its unnecessarily restrictive wording, **this document does nothing to serve the profession or the interest of the public and should be dismissed and unanimously rejected.**

Yours in Chiropractic,

Dr Richard Mitton