Dear Chair,
I have had the limited opportunity to read the proposed Board's Code of Practice. I am very disappointed in a number of clauses which I feel prohibits my ability to make clinical decisions in the care of my patients. I also feel there is a severe restriction in trade and the ability for the public to make decisions on their own health care. Before I was a chiropractor I was a Clinical Nurse and have been working as a nurse for the past 9 years. I have witnessed firsthand what happens when restrictions to practice occurs. The majority of work now performed by physiotherapists and OT's were work nurses performed in their daily duties. These duties were taken away from us and two new professions were formed. This did not help the over worked nurses and instead caused professional unhappiness and more delays to the care of patients. I left nursing after experiencing the constant power struggle between the medical profession, government and nurses. I undertook the necessary 5 year degree in Chiropractic so that I could manage my patients without being bullied or made feel lesser then my count part medical doctors. This is not an attack on the medical profession; my father is a highly successful GP. However I am very aware of the outcomes restrictions to practice can make and feel that the community will find a profession that will service their need if we cannot provide them with our current care. This may cause a new profession to arise or for established professions that do not have these restrictions to take up our unique form of care.

When speaking about evidenced based practice, many, many health professionals are practicing techniques, surgery or other forms of care with limited or no evidence due to the fact that there is not enough funding, time or people in the profession to research the massive topics of human health problems. The long process of ethics committee and red tape prevent research being done in a timely manner. I have seen this first hand as I worked as a research assistant at Murdoch University in the Chiropractic Department. With this in mind restrictions should not be put in place unless positively shown they are CONTRAINDICATED, rather than restricted due to lack of "evidenced based" research.

I am particularly concern about the board’s ability to restrict care to children/infants and its stand on the use of X-rays. I feel I as well as my colleagues have jumped through hoops and attained a very high education in order for us to make clinical decisions on the care of our patients.

I left the nursing profession so that I would not be dragged into these government/board issues but unfortunately I feel I have no choice but to respond to this very thoughtless proposal as I don't plan on going back to study medicine which seems to be the only profession that is strong enough to fight for the rights of their doctors. Do not make yourself the enemy please consider all submissions and realise the very short time period you have allowed your members to look over this document, especially the fact that Easter is a time when many people go on holidays.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Leisa de Kauwe (D.C)