Comment on Codes Guidlines

John Petrozzi to natboards

History: This message has been replied to.

I would like to submit my thoughts on the **Draft Code of Professional Practice for Chiropractors in Australia**

Here are a few points relating to the draft paper.

I have a particular objection to some of the words used in the draft document.

5.1.2 Practitioners should not <u>tout</u> for business. Business cards may be provided to participants upon request, but neither the obtaining of contact information from participants nor the making of appointments at the time of an assessment is permitted. Practitioners should not make unsolicited contact with participants subsequent to an assessment.

Personally I don't do screenings but regardless of this I feel that this isn't a very positive way of looking at an important component of some chiropractic practices across Australia. Spinal screenings have been used by CAA (NSW) for years to educate the public and sometimes help people towards a healthier way of living, or just helping with someone's pain with an alternative to other more invasive therapies or treatments.

Meaning of the word <u>tout</u> [ta□t]

vb

1. (Business / Commerce) to solicit (business, customers, etc.) or hawk (merchandise), esp in a brazen way.

In the few screenings that I have been involved with over the years there has never been any 'touting' or coercion. Maybe a better choice of wording would be appropriate and less offensive. If a lay person was to pick up and read this part of the report they would get the impression that chiropractors were a pack of untrained cowboys looking for an easy buck.

Your paper paints a picture that chiropractors are presumed to be touting for business, creating false outcomes, instilling fear and false promises.

The items about pointing out the perceived shortcomings in chiropractors skills are unnecessary. There is not much evidence for most of what is performed across all health professions so chiropractors should not feel guilty about this. The

education provided at our university has more than ingrained a scientific mindset, in fact it seems that the humanistic side of practice is one that needs more attention at university and maybe also in the language of the draft Code of Professional Practice.

In summary, I feel that the tone of the whole paper needs to be looked at again, it is somewhat demeaning and disrespectful to those chiropractors doing the right thing. That is, providing a caring service to patients.

Sincerely,

John Petrozzi
Chiropractor