“Attention;

Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia”

Dear Sir

I wish to express my concern regarding the inclusion of the “Code of Professional Practice for Chiropractors in Australia” in the “Consultation paper on codes and guidelines” by the Chiropractic Board of Australia.

Without great detail, I am concerned that it is totally proscriptive for the practice of chiropractic and duplicates many areas already covered in other documents. It would appear that the guideline has been written independently and without comprehensive consultation with those who authored the cross-professional code.

Every other National Board appears to have left their professions open to regulation under the terms of the cross-professional code of conduct which are fair and general. None has taken such a blatant and disrespectful attitude toward their respective professions.

While the tone of the cross-professional code is positive and inspiring, the tone of the draft chiropractic guidelines is demeaning and oppressive toward the profession.

The board should have confidence in its ability to adopt a fair and appropriate peer reviewed approach without the need for reference to past proscriptive and restrictive codes of professional practice.

My concern is that the proscriptive guidelines will limit the ability of the Board to deal with new problems as they arise and will lead to even more restrictions being written into the guidelines with the potential to limit room for future professional development or growth.

Regardless of past board experiences the inclusion of this proscriptive device reflects a lack of confidence in the Board’s own procedures and the practice of peer review. Already too many laws and regulations exist and I believe this is an opportunity to simplify rather than complicate the review process.

Chiropractic practice is already restricted by outside gatekeepers. Are we not our own worst enemy with the introduction of such self restrictive practice directives where other professions are less restrictive?

Yours respectfully

Douglas B Hart DC