4th April 2010

Re: Proposed Code of Professional Practice for Chiropractors in Australia

Dear Chairperson,
Members of the Chiropractors Registration Board of Australia,

I would like to register my personal objection to the draft guidelines for the Code of Professional Practice for Chiropractors in Australia.

The guidelines in question appeared three weeks ago for review, consultation and submissions by our profession. Three weeks for a profession to give thoughtful consideration to such a serious document is a considerably short length of time and from all accounts the document has been developed with very little *wide-ranging consultation*. I would ask exactly how much consultation was and has been requested to date and what was the cross section of the professions drawn upon to enlist this team?

In general I find the tone of the guidelines to be defamatory, negative and demeaning of all Chiropractors not only in Australia but globally. The general bias of the document depicts our members to be no better than that of a travelling snake oil sales person. To be restrictive of a profession to this degree would in itself indicate that this profession is widely involved in illegal or unscrupulous activities in one form or another. Is it current practice for other professional boards to take such a deliberate and disrespectful stance against their respective professionals?

It is my opinion that "The Guidelines for Practice" should be exactly that, a guide that a professional can review or consult to ensure his or her practice is of the highest professional standards. These practice guidelines should be created, maintained and enforced by his or her peers within the profession. I understand that the draft is a move towards refinement of our practices but the lengths to which this document restricts our growth as a profession is ridiculous and more importantly far reaching.

We have strived as a profession to establish and uphold a professional public identity in the health care industry for many years. For the registration board to single out and encumber the profession with a document of this nature, I strongly feel would be extremely detrimental to each and every member and stifle our profession. The medical profession has long sought fuel of this nature to tarnish our profession. This document infers that the profession in general needs rigid guidelines to adhere to so that our practices will be safe to the public. This document would be a nail in our coffins.

I urge you to reconsider this document in a different light, one that truly takes our future seriously.

Yours Sincerely

John de Voy DC
Chiropractor
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