Tuesday 6th April 2010

Submission to Chiropractors Board of Australia
Re: Code of Professional Conduct for Chiropractors

By Dr Clinton McCauley (Chiropractor)

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

I am writing with such disdain for the proposers of these new guidelines as I read through them and the restrictive changes contained within.

I believe that the restrictions these laws and guidelines will impose on the profession are a restriction of freedom that prevents me from actually practicing chiropractic as I have in the last fifteen years.

I question the process that has created these guidelines and I am completely amazed at the very short amount of time the new registration board has given ALL chiropractors Australia wide to respond. There has been a lack of transparency and consultation during the creation of these guidelines and as such the guidelines DO NOT represent the general chiropractic population.

There seems to be much more going on and whether it is only a couple of people's beliefs on THEIR view and those individuals imposing their will on the remainder on us, or whether there are bigger fish in the ocean dealing their hand, is remaining to be seen.

The Registration Board expects the chiropractic profession to believe they can be trusted to create these guidelines, and then they attempt to inhibit the practice of chiropractic through them. I believe the Board is attempting to impose massive restrictions on the profession itself. I feel strongly that the process that has created the guidelines is faulty and it therefore is not possible to accept them as they have compromised the integrity of what the Board stands for.

I understand when I am given the responsibility to practice chiropractic, I need to have the power and freedom to be self determined. I can only relate to the patients when I can freely communicate my message from my specialized knowledge and experience, not only applying evidence based science, as all other professions are permitted to do.

This Board does not have the confidence of the profession and I have no confidence in them whatsoever to be the regulatory body for the Chiropractic profession. I also believe the people behind the new guidelines should be hastily removed from their position as they do not represent the true nature of chiropractors Australia wide.

The Code of Conduct for Registered Health Professionals is well written, articulate, open and positive in its framing and a chance to further our professional standards across all the health professions.

The Code of Professional Conduct for Chiropractors is poorly written, restrictive, insular and negative in it framework and as such should not be accepted in its current proposal. There needs to be much more discussion and deliberation over the proposed changes and I vehemently protest to the guidelines as they are. These need to be changed before legislation comes in as I believe once implemented, it will be extremely difficult for any changes to be made at all.

I understand that some of these guidelines are to remove rogue elements from the profession, yet creating rules and regulations for the many that pertain to such a minority is so ridiculous. This quote sums it up **"Don't let the negative few overpower the positive many"** And that is what this is, fear mongering at its best! Its inclusion, as it is, will only hamper the proper development of new and necessary guidelines as the challenges to the new act become apparent.

I would respectfully suggest that the entire Code of Professional Conduct for Chiropractors be omitted as it will only cause confusion and place an unnecessary regulatory burden for little to no effect. With necessary discussion and debate with everyone involved, then a new draft for chiropractic conduct can be written.

Wouldn't it be great if the benefits of chiropractic were told en mass instead of the alternative? Wouldn't it also be great if for once the truth was told that chiropractic is safer than the medical alternative? These questions I ponder as I look at potentially the most damaging legislation to come about in the chiropractic profession. I am completely disheartened by the so called experts attempting to choke the profession with their belligerence. I seriously question their positions and ask they be reviewed immediately as I have no confidence in their leadership.

Yours sincerely,

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