7th of April, 2010

For the Attention of the National Registration Board,

After reading through the proposed draft code of professional conduct for chiropractors in Australia, both Debra Behi and Riaz Behi would like to provide input on the following points.

1. The overall tone of the draft is very demeaning and assumes poor ethical and clinic behaviour of chiropractors as a whole. We pride ourselves on providing up to date, specific chiropractic treatment to our patients and do so in and ethical and caring manner. To assume and provide conduct guidelines based upon the poor behaviour of a very small minority of the profession (which occurs in all professions) is unreasonable, restrictive and very demeaning.

2. Placing restrictive guidelines on the use of x-ray as a diagnostics tool. In practice we have had many cases where a patient, who has sought an alternative diagnosis after seeing numerous other practitioners without x-ray evaluation, once x-rays were taken and a correct biomechanical diagnosis was reached, the patient then received specific chiropractic treatment and found benefit.

3. The section relating to treating children is again overly prescriptive and in so doing does not allow for the variety of case presentations that occur.

4. The section relating to spinal screenings is again assuming touting for business and poor ethical behaviour rather than passion about the health of the spine for one's community.

In closing, we do understand the board want to provide a code that ensures public safety and the longevity of the profession but at the same time we find that by providing a code of conduct the is so prescriptive and narrow in scope, that is stifles the clinical judgement of the chiropractor. By assuming poor ethical and clinical behaviour and then attempting to stamp it out by the code of conduct, it will restrict the freedom of practice and ultimately reduce longevity of the profession. More time and money should be placed in education, both at the student level as well as professional level to ensure appropriate ethical practice and more time should be placed in complaint resolution and enforcement to weed out those rogue cowboys that are ruining it for the rest of us.

Thank you for your time.

Riaz & Debra Behi
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