Attention Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia

Kellie Dawson to natboards .010

History: This message has been replied to.

To The Chairman of the Chiropractic Registration Board,

I understand the need for changes, and I support you in making some of the Chiropractic professions more accountable for what they do and say. Many of us are suffering negative publicity from some of the cowboys out there. However, it is with a sense of impending doom that I read the proposals recently put forward. I have a lot of concerns, many of which have no doubt been mentioned by other Chiropractors. Here are just some that may not have been raised

- Having to reveal all financial dealings to patients. That would mean anytime I refer to any other Chiropractor or therapist who works in my centre, I would need to explain to the patient that I will receive a percentage of the money received by that therapist or Chiropractor. I consider that insulting, as if to suggest that I would refer patients for my financial gain. Not everybody is driven by money, and I only refer when it is needed by the patient. My financial arrangements with my therapists have nothing to do with my patients.

- Payment plans. I do not use payment plans, and have heard many complaints about other Chiropractors being too pushy with payment plans, so I support some restrictions in the way they are handled. However, as part of our holistic service to patients in our clinic (where we offer Naturopathy, Counseling, Hypnotherapy , Chiropractic, Massage, Acupuncture etc) we would like to offer the option, to help with their budgeting, of having them direct credit us a minimal amount each week , so that they build credit and can use that to fund their total wellness plan. It might mean say 3 Naturopathic consults per year, 5 massages, some Chiro or counseling if they need it, to be used in any way the patient chooses throughout the year, with any left overs at Xmas being able to be used as gift vouchers for the loved ones to say have a massage, or refunded of course if they choose. This arrangement would be without pushy sales gimmicks, in fact it would probably cost us money in admin, but if it helps patients who want a 'total health overall' to be able to budget for it , then why not? Why should we be restricted to no longer than 3 months?? Too much paperwork, too restricting. Getting ones health back might take years, especially with regard to biochemistry or counseling, but under your new laws we would not be able to assist our patients to budget for this. Chiropractic could be a part of a patient's health needs, but it would be discriminated against because of your suggested laws.

- I understand the need to reign in some of the cowboys who make ridiculous statements designed to instill fear and create an over dependence on their services. That definitely needs to happen

and I support that. It seems however that the new laws regarding promotion and advertising are ridiculously tight. We do live in a democracy , so who wants us so restricted, and why?

- I also have concern about how rushed this has been. I understand that you would like to have these in place for July 1st , however, in the bigger scheme of things, rushing to meet a deadline at the cost of having due consideration and debate, is not ideal and we may all

regret it later on when the ramifications are felt nationwide in due course.

- Knowing that many Chiropractors are not fans of vaccination, are you hoping that by having the ability to force vaccination that you will have a reduction in the number of Chiropractors in practice?

- I am not into conspiracy theories, but from the look and feel of this whole thing I do have to wonder....who is pushing for these ridiculous restrictions and rules, and why? Is there some puppetry happening, where people with less than good intentions for the Chiropractic profession are influencing perhaps naïve but well meaning people to bring about these changes ? What is the bigger picture here?? Of course those being puppets would never like to see themselves in this way, but it is possible that they are puppets and are unaware of it. I would encourage them to ask themselves, who is pulling their strings, and why?

I am sorry if this is not what you would like to hear, I am sure that many , many hours of hard work have gone into this at your end. These things do need to be heavily considered though. Please do not let stubborn minded determination to meet your deadline stop you from acting with caution and due consideration. This is too important to be rushed.

Yours Sincerely,
Kellie Dawson