Re: Submission regarding guidelines

Beau Woods to chair, b.goodreid, caawa

Cc: thechiro, switched_on, 56crackerjack, gmarslen, rlamp

Chiropractic Board of Australia
PO Box 16085
Collins Street West
Melbourne, Victoria
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Dr Phillip Donato
Chair
Chiropractic Board of Australia

RE: National Registration Guidelines

Dear Dr Donato,

I make the following submission as a concerned member of the chiropractic profession.

Firstly, these proposed guidelines are the most restrictive of any of the regulated boards. The most analogous profession, osteopathy, has a far less restrictive code of conduct than the chiropractic board. In fact, the osteopathic code has no equivalent section at all to the 'Code of professional practice for chiropractors in Australia'. Neither do the physiotherapists. It is this section that I and I believe the majority of chiropractors in Australia would object to. In this particular section the board is seeking to establish itself as the arbiter of the research evidence pertaining to chiropractic. This is not the role of the board. This is the role of the teaching institutions, universities and of the collegial institutions such as the Australian College of Chiropractors and the Chiropractic and Osteopathic college of Australia. None of the other regulated professions have gone as far as the chiropractic board, what makes us different?

The 'Code of professional practice for chiropractors in Australia' makes broad statements in regard to use of radiological and other diagnostics, treatment of children and non-musculo-skeletal conditions without any references and goes against what is accepted standards of practice within the profession and is completely superfluous. The only test that needs to be applied is what is reasonable and acceptable to ones peers within the profession. Unethical behaviour can adequately be dealt with on a case by case basis if the principles that broadly apply to all professions are adopted.

The national board is supposed to bring together the various state boards thus reducing inefficiencies and removing anomalous regulation. The few references the board relied on included the GCC-UK and draft guidelines from the Victorian board. The Victorian board was the anomaly among the states and resulted in an unprecedented vote of no confidence by chiropractors in that state.
The GCC-UK has turned chiropractic into a self-destructive profession that has seen its community standing fall to pariah status. Where is the influence of the other states acts which have worked very well?

If the board is to disregard the views of a large proportion of chiropractors in Australia then a situation of the 'tail wagging the

dog' whereby a small special interest group within the profession dictates how the rest of the profession is to practice.

My proposal is that the following changes be adopted.
1. The entire 'Code of professional practice for chiropractors in Australia' be removed to bring the guidelines in line with the Osteopathic board.
2. If the board is unwilling to comply with the above proposal then sections 2.6 (Radiology), 2.7 (Diagnostic Tools, Tests and Processes), 2.10 (Working with Children and Adults), 5.1 (Spinal Postural Assessment), 5.2.1 (Suicide prevention training) of the Code of professional practice for chiropractors in Australia must be either removed or reworded in consultation with the peak body representing chiropractors in Australia, the CAA national.

The advancement of science and best practice does not come from arbitrarily imposed regulation.

Innovation and patient centred care has taken the chiropractic profession to where it is, in spite of organised opposition and containment policies of political medicine. I implore the board not to allow organised opposition and containment policies to come from within our own profession. Do not stifle what has made this profession so successful. Let us always remember that the public has the right to choose.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to reading the revised guidelines.

Regards

Dr. Beau L. Woods BSc(Chiro), BChiro, BCom
Chiropractor