Submission to the Chiropractic Board of Australia
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CODES AND GUIDELINES

> The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint to keep from meddling with them while they do it.
> *Theodore Roosevelt*
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> A leader is a dealer in hope.
> *Napoleon Bonaparte*
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> Don't tell people how to do things, tell them what to do and let them surprise you with their results.
> *George S. Patton*
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> Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things.
> *Peter F. Drucker*
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> The very essence of leadership is that you have to have vision. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet.
> *Theodore M. Hesburgh*

When I first read the consultation paper on codes and guidelines I went into spasm and was transported back to my time in the University Clinic and the mountains of rules and regulations we were required to know, understand and live by if we were to succeed. Admittedly that time was only a mere five months ago but it may be a wound that will never heal if the Board forges ahead with their proposed course of action.

At first I began to critically appraise the guidelines and codes, as my now peers and colleagues have and as I entered the sixth page of my concerns I realised I was heading down the wrong path. I am sure the Board has nothing but good intentions in its mind whilst drafting these tomes; however I feel they may have mistakenly missed the point.

The role of the Board, at least in my mind, is one of unifying leadership. It is perhaps the most critical issue facing the profession today. Without it we will all be lost and Chiropractic in Australia will continue to be a fragmented group of health professionals who fail to meet their full potential. It is important that we have a diverse range of ideas and approaches within the profession, however outside the profession we must present as a single minded body with a common vision.

It is therefore critical that our national board be able to lead our profession. They must unite and inspire and provide the common vision that we are so lacking at this point in our history.

Leadership is not about a list of rules. Inspiration does not come from the engendering of fear. A vision does not appear from the mists of confusion in a 63 page document.

Leadership like Chiropractic is an art. It is done best when those that are to follow understand and have ownership of the common vision, and are allowed to meet that vision to the best of their ability. It understands that people are diverse and realises answers to challenges are also diverse. From this diversity strength in action is achieved.

The Chiropractic Board of Australia must be representative of all Chiropractors. These codes and guidelines fail to do this. They fail to inspire, fail to unite, and fail to give a common vision. I would hope that they will be re-worked with these words in mind, lest we will continue to focus on fighting amongst ourselves over petty issues and we will fail to win the battle for the hearts and minds of the public and each other.

Yours in the profession

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