Draft Guidlines Chiropractic Registration Board

Maree Chilton to natboards 07/04/2010 04:52 PM

Dear Dr Donato

Re: Draft Code Of Professional Practise For Chiropractors In Australia

I wish to respond to the recent guidelines presented by the National Chiropractic Board.

I believe that no other National Professional Board has to date included Specific Code for their Specific Professions. I do not understand why The Chiropractic Profession has undertaken this task . Their appears to be major duplication and repetition of the Cross Professional Code with the Code of Professional Practise for Chiropractors.
Areas like Patients Rights, Consent, Refusal and Discontinuation of Care,Confidentiality, Fees Health Records etc. Is this necessary, and what purpose does it serve? It appears that with only 3 weeks to peruse this, is this really long enough for a Profession to respond appropriately considering the boards requirement for wide ranging consultation. I would be disappointed that with haste to implement this that it creates a limitation to our range of practise and thus waters down the differences between chiropractic and other professions.

I would like to think That if our profession goes to the trouble to do this, that the Code related to Chiropractors would be more about the aspects of practise that differentiate us from other professions. It appears that Code toward Chiropractors include broad ranging restrictions, that shed light that we work form fear mongering and that we might not put the patient first. Its the way that some of these guidelines have been written in a negative tone rather than non emotive guidelines. Examples as follows.

Any information provided to a participant at an assessment of this nature must be scientifically and clinically relevant and should not in any way engender fear, or be designed to engender fear.

During the conduct of spinal screenings no attempt should be made to use equipment and/or procedures that do not constitute an integral part of the routine practice; or engender fear in the mind of the participant; or of the chiropractor.

No attempt should be made to deliberately create a false outcome

Practitioners should avoid promoting consumer dependency, somatisation, illness behaviour or secondary gain.

Practitioners should be aware that 'screening' for health problems may be associated with harms such as false positives which may generate anxiety and unnecessary treatment

Practitioners should be aware of the validity and reliability of the tools, tests and procedures they use and they should not misrepresent the findings of any test or assessment tool as to their clinical value or significance.

A practitioner must not change a health record to deceive anyone and any changes to records should be initialled and changes should be made in such a way as to make the previous entry visible;

I believe it would be disappointing to see these guidelines approved without further consulting with the broader Profession