Code of professional practice for Chiropractors

Gordon Weakley to natboards:

Attention: Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed guidelines. I would like the board to note that I concur with the submissions of the ACT Board, Peter Cowie, Mark Postles and the CAA.

In brief:

1. There has been no attempt to make the consultation process widespread. In this day and age a copy of the guidelines could have been forwarded to every Chiropractor in Australia.
2. There has been insufficient time for consultation. Three weeks to review such a large and significant document is insufficient.

The code of professional practice for Chiropractors is inherently flawed. Rather than provide broad guidelines that promote good practice, it is written prescriptively to restrict poor and unethical practice. This results in a document that is demeaning rather than encouraging, limiting rather than enlightening, historical rather than visionary. The analogy that I think of is my role as a father: I can try to prescribe good behavior by detailing all the bad behavior and the punishments that will ensue if that behavior is not satisfactory or I can promote good behavior through defining my ideals and guiding and inspiring my children to live up to that standard. It is impossible to write a document that covers all the ills of our or any profession and to do so limits our ability to adapt to the ills of the future. The code of professional practice for Chiropractors contains a number of sections that duplicate the guidelines elsewhere in the document.

3. The section on acupuncture has no place in the code.

I hope that this and all the other feedback will be given due consideration by the board. It would be a pity to lose this opportunity to guide the profession in a positive direction.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Weakley