I wish to reply to the recent guidelines as they are currently being presented to the profession by the National Chiropractic Board.

I believe that the restrictions that these laws and guidelines will impose on the future of my profession. This will in turn restrict my scope of practice.

The Code of Professional Conduct for Chiropractors restrictive, narrow-minded and negative towards our profession. In contrast to The Code of Conduct for Registered Health Professionals which is articulate, open and positive and could further our professional standards across all the health professions.

To my knowledge no other National Professional Board has seen fit to include such broad-ranging restrictions and specific guidelines on their specific professions as has the Chiropractors Board of Australia. It appears to assume poor conduct by chiropractors, has a disrespectful attitude and suggests a lack of respect to its members.

I have discussed this at length with a few collogues and the following are examples of its negativity and its limitations:

- *"frequent chiropractic checks or treatment of children without symptoms or signs has not been supported by current available evidence and is currently not recommended..." 2.10.7*
- *"practitioners ensure that all staff have undertaken a basic training course in suicide intervention skills or appropriate interventions for the particular type of risk" 5.2.1*
- *"The need for X-rays is supported in cases where "red flags" (suspected pathology) are elicited from the clinical history and examination" 2.6.2*
- *Practitioners should not tout*
- *The participant needs to be advised that it is not a comprehensive examination.*
- *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 behavior 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 must formulate a clinical impression/ diagnosis for each consumer. This should be made upon the presentation of any new condition or symptoms; and amended during the plan of care as necessary. A clinical impression /diagnosis is derived from the information obtained in the clinical interaction, history, examination , imaging and other reports/tests and must be recorded in the consumer's clinical record.*

- *The findings of diagnostic tools/ tests should not be used in marketing and advertising, as members of the public may be misled as to the value of those findings in relation to their own situation.*

- *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 initialed and changes should be made in such a way as to make the previous entry visible;*

- *Records should not contain comments that are derogatory or emotive;*

- *A practitioner must not issue or sign a certificate that is backdated or misrepresents a fact.*

It seems that the Code of Professional Conduct for Chiropractors is just adding more and more restrictions to try to catch up with the emerging complaint trends. Where will it end?

<u>The entire Code of Professional Conduct for Chiropractors be omitted</u> as it will only cause confusion and place an unnecessary regulatory burden for little to no effect. It will affect my ability to practice chiropractic and will give rise to further distortion from other health professions.

When I am given the responsibility to practice chiropractic, I need to have the power and freedom to practice chiropractic.

Yours in Health

Dr Andrew Kaltenbach