Submission to the Chiropractic Board of Australia regarding the Draft code of conduct for Chiropractors

Mail to chair@chiropracticboard.gov.au

From Tracy Kennedy-Shanks D.C. B.Sc.

14th May 2010

Thank you for amending the original document and putting the revision out for further comment. I would like to comment that the overall content and tone of the document has improved.

I would like to make comment on some more of the document that I believe needs further refining. There are some sentences that need assessing for grammar and I trust that they will be proofed appropriately.

My concerns about content are as follows

Page 4, 2.2

2.2 Good care

Maintaining a high level of professional competence and conduct is essential for good care. Good practice involves

a). practising in accordance with the current and accepted evidence base of the chiropractic profession, including clinical outcomes.

"evidence based" I feel this is not appropriate as we are all trained clinicians and not necessarily researchers. Medicine is not evidence based and so why would we, as chiropractors, have such restrictive parameters. How would Chiropractic as a profession and chiropractic techniques develop if chiropractors are bound by such restrictive guidelines. If chiropractors are only practicing evidence-based techniques then there will be no further growth of the profession.

Page 13 9.12

9.12 Financial and commercial dealings

Chiropractors must be honest and transparent in financial arrangements with patients. Good practice involves:

c). not accepting gifts from patients other than tokens of minimal value such as flowers or chocolates and if token gifts are accepted, making a file note or informing a colleague where possible.

This is petty. As professionals I believe we can decide what are appropriate dealings. We are not politicians.

Page 13, 9.10 (b)

9.10 Investigations

Chiropractors have responsibilities and rights relating to any legitimate investigation of their practice or that of a colleague. In meeting these responsibilities, it is advisable to seek legal advice or advice from a professional indemnity insurer. Good practice involves:

b). disclosing to anyone entitled to ask for it information relevant to an investigation into the conduct, performance or health of a chiropractor or colleague

What is the definition of “anyone entitled to ask”

Thank you for altering the document to clarify the above points. I look forward to an appropriate revision

Yours sincerely

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