Submission to the Chiropractic Board of Australia with regard to the consultation draft code of conduct for Chiropractors.
Released by the Chiropractic Board of Australia on May 7th 2010.

17 May 2010.

Attention: Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia.

I have read Draft No. 2 and I believe that this document was composed by well meaning Chiropractors. However, I have serious reservations about its content.

I have read and agree with the points made by Dr. Mark Postles and Dr. Peter Cowie, their points are articulate and relevant. I believe a minimalistic approach would be acceptable, and I concur with their calls for deletion of the offending clauses.

I am concerned at the short time which has been allocated to reply to this documentation. It smacks of Mr. Rudd's approach to home insulation and the consequent disaster caused by lack of planning and time, amongst other things.

I believe one should be careful about pandering to the short term needs of our current political masters. They may come and go but our professional relationships continue in perpetuity.

I believe that there are a number of Chiropractors who are totally unaware that this draft legislation exists. They may well find themselves governed by legislation in which they have had no say. I believe that every Chiropractor should be notified by certified mail to enable them to fully assess and reply to the proposed changes. That *is* how democracy works.

This document reeks of the hand of the medical establishment in an attempt to make us conform.

I believe we Chiropractors differentiate ourselves by the ability to treat the cause which is not necessarily recognized by the medical establishment. This document insists on diagnosis, with no mention of maintenance or healing.

LEGACY

I think the Board ought to exercise a duty a care to its members, *now* is time to analyze and fully examine the consequences of this legislation, and indeed take note of the views of its members before making any decision or recommendation regardless of the short term political pressure. Consequently, it is my belief that this legislation in its current form will be unacceptable to most of my colleagues and indeed polarize us.

SOME OF MY CONCERNS

What is the definition of a Chiropractor?

This document would seem to suggest there is one, if so what is it?

Section 2.1 **EVIDENCE BASED**

I believe, there will be very few new ideas or people thinking outside of conventional wisdom, for the benefit of patients now and in the future.

Section 4.2 & 2 **TREAT – DIAGNOSE**

We cannot purport to treat anything but we must diagnose using multiple diagnostic tools.

I do not understand this.

Section 6.2 **UNNECESSARY SERVICES**

Who decides this?, the Board, the Patient, the Chiropractor, the Chiropractor's peers, the patient's relatives, the Solicitor, etc.

I do not understand this.

Section 2 **WORK WITHIN THEIR LIMITS**

Every Chiropractor I know works differently. What is the definition of a Chiropractor ?.

Section 4.2 RELEVANT DIAGNOSIS,BASED ON SOUND JUSTIFIABLE CLINICAL REASONING

If we cannot treat the cause as Chiropractors – are we to treat the symptom and become pseudo Doctors?

Section 2.7 TREATING PATIENTS IN EMERGENCY

What do you mean???

Section 3.3 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

This smacks of trying to please the medical profession.

Section 3.3 I INTERPRETER

This will stop people from seeking care because of this clause, ie., cost of the service and logistics.

Section 3.4 e GENETIC INFORMATION

What are you getting at?

Section 3.5 DETAIL COSTS,BENEFITS & RISKS OF ALTERNATIVE TREATMENT

This is Nanny stuff.

Section 3.13 ENDING A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP

Nanny stuff again!

Section 3. 14 PROVIDING CARE TO CLOSE FRIENDS

If we were brain or heart surgeons, I would agree. So you would expect me to go and see someone I do not know or like rather than have care from a colleague that I like and trust. ***What****..... study says that this is true.*

Section 4.2 USE OF DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS AND PROCEDURES

Again, we raise the specter that we are not allowed to say we treat anything, but we are mandated to diagnose. The board is aware that many Chiropractors do not diagnose.

Are they trying to get rid of those Chiropractors??

Section 5 WORKING WITH OTHER PRACTITIONERS

Are we liable if the person is injured by drugs or surgery, if, we refer them. There is a precedence to suggest., we are.

Section 9.4 HEALTH RECORDS

Medications???? Etc.

Section 10.2 c IMMUNISATION

Is this a demand for us to teach our patients how wonderful and effective immunization is. What has happened to our profession that this, has been put into a document which is intended to be made law.

It is beyond my understanding of what this wonderful profession stands for!.

TOKEN GIFTS

What are token gifts..... please define. Inform my colleagues – WHICH ONES?.

TO SUM UP

I believe very strongly that people need to be responsible for their own health and that, we as health care providers should facilitate and lead but NEVER. dis-empower people.

We should always empower.

The draft as presented, is in contrast to the views that I hold dear and believe to be the core of Chiropractic.

I submit that these concerns have to be amended or withdrawn.

My mission is to empower, respect, care for, listen, facilitate healing and some times… challenge the people who seek my care. This will not change!

Yours in Chiropractic

Ken Hull DC. Chiropractor

Hull Chiropractic
293 Kensington Road
Kensington Park. South Aust 5068

Ph: 08 864 6663

Email: hullchiro@gmail.com