Submission number 2 to the Chiropractors Board of Australia

Dr Mark Pickford
Graduated 1981 from the now RMIT, has previously served as federal delegate, state president of Qld, as Board chair of the Qld Chiropractic Board and practiced for 29years as a chiropractor.

Please find additional comments on the draft code of Conduct for Chiropractors.

I submit that the draft code not be passed in its current form and that the act changes necessary to proceed toward National registration go ahead with the board to ratify a draft code at a latter time when the code is acceptable to the majority of the profession.
I apologize for any errors, the haste of the closing dates has meant a hasty submission with no time for proof reading.

The whole context of this code is derogatory and insulting to the chiropractic profession.

It has sections that are simple impossible or unnecessary to comply with some example are:
Section 1.2 . "This includes cultural awareness" suggesting that a chiropractor shall be responsible for any and all cultural sensitivity of a patient
Has a paragraph on self reflection is this a code or a life style document.

Scope of practice has identified over the counter, medicines, herbs and vitamins which suggests that Chiropractors don't have the necessary skills to include these in his scope of practice. Lack of knowledge has never stopped a medical doctor from interfering with chiropractics scope of practice.

1.3 Indigenous culture: what has that got to do with a code of conduct for chiropractors.

Section 2
Providing Good care is not what a code of conduct is about a code of conduct is there to regulate poor or bad practices, trying to set out what is 'good care' is so variable depending on the circumstance that it is impossible to be exhaustive and is generally considered ridiculous to try.

2.2 (a) repetitive and covered by 2.1 (e) the whole section is just fluffing out 2.1

What are section 2.3 and 2.4

2.5 Is repeat of section 1.4 and who the patient wants to involve, has nothing to do with the chiropractor.

2.6 (b) what a load of crock, you get a 200 kilo person with sore knees and you cannot tell them to go away and lose weight because you could be perceived to be prejudicing against fat people

2.6(c) is part of the anti discrimination act so get it out of here.
Again this code has tried to be exhaustive and explain good practice which is silly.

2.7 WHY what purpose does it serve in protecting the public.

3.1 I found one I like simple and effective.

3.2 a & b Trying to explain principles that we should have taught in primary school.

3.2 e & f Just more feel good fluff.

3.2 g Should be part of the professional standards act or what ever is going to replace it.

3.3 Could have been said in a couple of paragraghs.

3.6 g & f has to be deleted as being prescriptive will not be appropriate in every circumstance especially with regards wellness or maintenance care which is an accepted part of chiropractic practice.

3.7 Children and Young people are patients and should not be discriminated against in a code of conduct. There guardian/parents are responsible. What has the writer intended with this section that will result in protecting the public.

3.8 Again basically waffle and feel good stuff that we should have learnt either from our parents, primary, secondary or tertiary education but if it needs to be repeated then at least it does no harm just treats chiropractor as a profession as children.

3.14 I don’t agree with the premise that it is inappropriate at all. It has been part of the medical boards code for a long time and I believe it may be specialty specific.

3.16 What a statement of the obvious how are you going to stay in business.

4.2 Are we the only profession with these clauses if so WHY

6.1 This has the basic flaw that assumes the system as it stands is efficient and effective.

6.2 This would be pertinent if we had medicare, as we don’t I find that the patients that pay me out of their own pockets are very mindful of the costs.

6.3 Another feel good passage of little value in a code of ethic for chiropractors.

6.4 This is a joke I have absolutely no intention of following the flawed allopathic system that masquerades as public health. Needs to be removed or no responsible chiropractor should register.

12.2 Possible just refer to the NHMRC guidelines instead of wasting paper.

Appendix 1 Should be removed as chiropractors should have the ability to promote themselves anyway that they see fit. The Board should have the necessary powers to deal with people that do the wrong thing when it happens and to labour the entire profession with rubbish like this is unnecessary.

Appendix 2
Is again unnecessary and treat chiropractors with contempt, of course we have to abide by the conditions of Australian acts but to use as references American laws and advice is simply wrong and inappropriate.

Appendix 3
I don’t believe the function of a board is to teach or suggest guideline in duration and frequency of care and this should be removed as it is repetitive and petty.