Attention Chair Chiropractic Board of Australia
Ken McAviney
to:
natboards
16/05/2010 06:49 PM
Please respond to kmcaviney
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I completely agree with the following part of the submission made by Dr Cowie.

Clauses that cause substantive concern

1. Page 2 Introduction 1.1, 3rd paragraph: This code will be used: to assist the Chiropractic Board of Australia (the Board) in its role of protecting the public by setting and maintaining expectations of good practice – if professional conduct varies significantly from this Code, chiropractors should be prepared to explain and justify their decisions and actions and serious or repeated failure to meet this Code may have consequences for registration.

   There may be a reason for a chiropractors conduct departing significantly from the code. For example; a chiropractor is developing a new technique or diagnostic tool that does not currently have the support of the profession. In this instance repeated failure to meet the code would be acceptable "with justification".

   The words "without justification" must be inserted after "repeated failure"

2. Page 4, 2.2 Good Care part o.): The words "accepted evidence base" should be removed and replaced with the words "currently accepted by peers." Given that there is no evidence that practitioners who utilise evidence based therapies have better outcomes than anyone else the inclusion of this clause has no basis.
3. Page 11, 9.2 Professional Boundaries clause c): "are often" should be replaced with "may be". If a chiropractor has a sufficient cooling off period before starting a relationship with a patient after ceasing care he or she should not be under the spectre of being judged as being in an inappropriate relationship.
4. Page 13, 9.12 Financial and commercial dealings Clause c): Flowers and chocolates. This is extremely proscriptive and unnecessary. A requirement to make a file note or to tell a colleague about every box of chocolates or bottle of wine a chiropractor receives from patients at Christmas is silly. By being so proscriptive the Board removes the broad brush approach that would permit it to address all variations of a theme that some chiropractors or manipulative patients might use to get around the spirit of the key element of the clause.

Regards,

Ken McAviney. DC New South Wales

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