The Chair,
Chiropractic Board of Australia,
natboards@adhs.vic.gov.au

Submission to the Chiropractic Board of Australia
Consultation Draft Code of Conduct for Chiropractors dated 7th May, 2010.

May 21st, 2010.

Dear Sir,

We as Chiropractors have been presented with a 20 page document that is so important to the profession and affects the very way we are as Chiropractors, and have been given such a short time to comment. Two weeks gives us very little time to read and digest the intentions of the Code of Conduct, consult with each other, to discuss the affects this will have on our lives, nor for us to fully comprehend the implications of the way the Draft Code has been worded. One has the feeling that the code is punitive rather than supportive of our profession, and almost treats us with disdain. It is distressing to feel as though this has been drafted from outside the profession, without supporting Chiropractors in the important work that they do.

As the particularly excellent submission by Dr. Mark Postles notes, that the definitions of many terms are either not provided or inadequate.

For example:
"person", "the Health Care System", "Public Health", "Health", "Diagnosis", "treatment", "Professional Values", "Treating Team", "ethics", "providing care".

There seems to be a misunderstanding of the nature of Chiropractic, with references to diagnosis, drugs, and other modalities. The Draft Code, if it came to fruition, would affect our freedom to speak to individuals, it would create huge amounts of unnecessary paper-work and phone calls, and impose a paramedic role on Chiropractors, not to mention a mammoth task of understanding all "alternatives to the proposed care and their relative risk/benefits." Is this referring to medical care as well as alternative type of care? Appointments would need to be very long, and I have not attended a Medical Doctor's consultation where I have had all "alternatives to the proposed care and their relative risk/benefits" explained to me. This Draft Code would make day to day practice unworkable.

The Code needs to say firstly, who we are and what we do. It needs to look at what a Chiropractor is and how a Chiropractor works day to day. The Code needs to be a document Chiropractors can be proud of, and want to agree to and stand for. At the moment it feels like it has been drawn up as a response to a list of complaints that have been received, and tried to accommodate every nuance of the complaint in a document that does not reflect the Chiropractic Profession, but, instead, seeks to constrain it, into an uncertain future. The Code of Conduct could be a much simpler document, and complaints could be dealt with in other arenas if and when they arise.

Rather than repeat the details of Dr Mark Postles submission and that of Dr.Peter Cowrie, I wish to support their submissions and provide them as attachments. Whilst I could highlight particular aspects of Dr. Postle's submission, it becomes apparent that every paragraph is very important, and would only be wasting your time to repeat it here.

I submit that this Australian Draft Code of Conduct for Chiropractors is such an important document that it cannot be rushed through. I ask that the profession be given more time to consult with each other, and time taken by the Board to hold meetings throughout Australia to receive

feedback from the profession, in great detail, then return to the drafting of a code that truly reflects a proud profession.

Yours faithfully,

Ross B. Bridle, D.C,
Chiropractor.

I