Submission to CBA on 2nd Draft Code of Conduct

I would like to address some aspects of the 2nd draft that has been supplied to the profession for public comment. I believe that there continues to be a general sense of negativity in addressing issues that have been a problem in the past committed by a very small minority of our profession; I refer particularly to the issues of financial contracts with patients, care of children, use of radiology and advertising. Whilst there are aspects of the code that I agree with, it all comes across as Big Brother tactics to deal with behaviours that do not reflect the integrity of the vast majority of Chiropractors in Australia.

I believe that the Board still has a way to go to win over the profession with this document. I recognise that the Board has a role to play in protecting the public but this document seems only to address this aspect of the Board's responsibilities; the Board also has a responsibility to the profession to allow Chiropractors the choice to practice in a way that best fits them as a practitioner and to act in their patient's best interests. They can best achieve this outcome utilising the skills and knowledge they have accumulated in practice; it seems that the Board wants to limit this accumulated knowledge base to a skill set that best suits the members of the Board and not the individual practitioner. I believe that if the practitioner is practicing in a way to achieve the best they can for their patients then this should be the way that appropriateness of care should be determined; not by placing limitations on the contemporary practice of Chiropractic based on a few peoples understanding of how Chiropractic should be practiced.

I would also like to know what right the Board has in telling us, as health professionals, how we should go about our own health care. As individuals we have the right to choose health care just as any other individual in Australia has. It seems absurd that a regulatory body such as yourselves would see it as an appropriate measure to lay down in guidelines how we should address our own health needs – totally and utterly inappropriate.

I sincerely hope that at the end of this process the code of conduct that becomes law does not ruin a wonderful profession that assists thousands of people every day, all around the world, doing what Chiropractors should be doing – removing vertebral subluxation interference and allowing the human body to do what it should do naturally.

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