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Attention: Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia

Submission to the Chiropractic Board of Australia

May 18, 2010

Chair, Code of Conduct for Chiropractors

I find it extraordinary that such an important change to our registration should have been assembled and seemingly forced on the profession with such indecent haste. The apparent lack of consultation with existing state boards, professional associations and individual chiropractors could be interpreted as an attempt to rush through an ill-advised document for ulterior motives not necessarily those of the profession at large.

I consider it of great importance that we move towards national registration. This new legislation must lead to the advancement of chiropractic and not a document to constrain chiropractic. We must be vigilant in protecting the essence of chiropractic and its unique position as a healing art, the very things that have enabled chiropractic to thrive as a distinct profession, as opposed to a watered down therapy to be utilised at the discretion of other professionals who have limited if any knowledge of the practice and potential of chiropractic who may well have a desire to absorb or contain us.

Definitions must be those already in common usage within the chiropractic profession. Do we really need new ones that are not necessarily in our best interest? They must also cover the various aspects of chiropractic care ie initial, corrective/rehabilitative and wellness care.

The CAA undertook extensive research to determine the “Core Values” of the profession, these findings should be included. Their use would cover many of the confused and unnecessary sections of this document.

Limiting our scope to evidence based is limiting and dangerous. Where will development come from?

Common law provides the foundation of what constitutes good practice. Do we have to reinvent the wheel?

2.6 Decisions about access to care - Appears unnecessary and is extremely confusing

2.7 Treatment in emergencies – totally irrelevant

3.3 Effective communication – we have no training to advise of non chiropractic health options. English is a universal language, non English speakers must accept responsibility for communication, not the chiropractor.

3.6 Informed financial consent – fees - Existing law covers this.

3.7 Children and young people – As in 3.6 all covered and therefore redundant.

3.8 Culturally safe and sensitive practice - Same as 3.6 3.7

5.4 Coordinating care with other practitioners – what does “relevant” mean.

6.4 Public health – Delete whole section not our area.

7.2 c) Too vague, what is surveillance?

9.2 d) Too vague and unnecessary.

9.4 Health records – a) impossible to comply, we have no training in medicine.

9.12 Financial and commercial dealings – does this mean we can't take care of a business partner outside of chiropractic. This is way too vague.

10.2 Chiropractor health – this has no place in the document.

Please consider the above comments when revising the code.

Yours sincerely

Graham J Tripp DC