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At a meeting in Hobart on 20 March 2010, the Australian Conference of Chiropractic Registration Boards (ACCRB) considered the consultation paper on codes and guidelines issued by the Chiropractic Board of Australia.

The following submissions result from that meeting.

If you have any queries on these submissions, please do not hesitate to contact either Dr (Chiro) Stephen Crean, Chair, or Jayne Wilson, Registrar, of the Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Board of Tasmania.

1. Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services:

3 – Professional Obligations

Professional Qualifications
ACCRB requests clarification of the distinction between an endorsed speciality and the right to use a clinic or practice title as a marketing name – eg: Family Chiropractor.

6 – Specific Requirements

6.1 Use of graphic or visual representations
The meeting questioned whether stock photos can be used in broad promotional material not specific to a particular treatment.

6.4 Advertising of qualifications and titles
Use of titles in advertising
ACCRB recommends the removal of profession specific paragraphs from the guideline documents and that such passages be placed in documents or appendices specific to the relevant profession.

6.5 Advertising of Price Information
*ACCRB recommends that in paragraph four, first dot point the words "**are advised against using**" be changed to "**should not use**" and the following sentence be added "Practitioners are advised this may be confusing to members of the public and therefore constitute a breach of the Act.*

8 – Consequences of breach of advertising requirements

*ACCRB seeks clarification of the word breach in the title of this section and recommends that this section be titled "Consequences of breach of **the law** regarding advertising requirements".*

9 – How a notification or complaint may be made

ACCRB seeks clarification as to whether a notification is to be made to APHRA or the relevant national profession Board.

2. Guidelines for mandatory notifications

Concerns were expressed regarding the trade-off between privacy requirements and mandatory reporting and the consequences of exposure of the identity of persons who may be suspected of being involved in an inappropriate sexual relationship with a practitioner.

3. Code of conduct for registered health practitioners

It was suggested that the generic code of conduct should be renamed Principles of Ethics and Conduct.

ACCRB recommends that the foreword from the code of conduct for registered health professionals be combined with the relevant and important items of the code of professional practice for chiropractors to create one Code for the Chiropractic profession.

Concerns were expressed regarding the requirement in 9.2(c) of the Code of conduct for all practitioners to be immunised.

Code of professional practice for chiropractors in Australia

<u>Introduction</u>

- *Third paragraph - It was recommend that this section be strengthened by the removal of the words "the Board felt" and replacing it with "the Board determined"*

<u>Section 1 Working with the Patient, Client and Consumer</u>

1.3 Informed Consent

- *1.3.1 – 1.3.4 are about the need for good communication not just informed consent and should be moved to a separate section on communications*

- *This section should include reference to the need to obtain new informed consent when there is a change in circumstances or treatment.*

1.6 Fees

- *1.6.4 – 1.6.7 should be part of the dot point subset under 1.6.3as they relate specifically to pre-paid financial agreements*

1.8 Provision of Certificates

- *The first paragraph should be expanded to define the role and purpose of cerificates*
- *1.8.1 A certificate should also include the purpose for which it is being given and the type of certificate.*

<u>Section 2 Working as a practitioner</u>

2.3 Advertising

- *This section is included in the guidelines for advertising of regulated health services and should therefore be removed.*

2.4 Health records

- *The third and fourth dot point under Health care record should be changed to delete "**be able to**" and replace it with "**be in a format to**"*

2.5 Names and Titles

- *2.5.2 and 2.5.4 are both repeated from the advertising guidelines and should be deleted.*

2.10 Working with adults and children

- *2.10.7 dot point 5 – There was significant discussion around the wording "not supported by current available evidence".*
  ACCRB recommends that the Chiropractic Board of Australia review the wording of this section.

2.13 Professional indemnity and public insurance

- *2.13.1 first line, change "**that**" to "**their**".*

<u>Section 5 Working with the broader community</u>
*5.1.2 – remove second part of first sentence " **but neither the obtaining of contact numbers nor the making of appointments at the time of an assessment is permitted**".*

*5.2.1 – Change wording in first line from "**are likely to**" to "**have a greater exposure to**".*

Guidelines on continuing professional development (CPD)

ACCRB recommends that the Chiropractic Board of Australia clarifies that the CPD assessment year is the same as the registration year.

ACCRB recommends that the second section of the Sample CPD learning portfolio form entitled "in addition I have undertaken the following learning activities as identified below" be removed.