CHIROPRACTIC & OSTEOPATHY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ABN 81 653 220 849

Attention: **Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia**
Email: **natboards@dhs.vic.gov.au**

Re: Chiropractic Board of Australia consultation paper on Codes and Guidelines
Submission by the Chiropractic and Osteopathy Board of South Australia

The Chiropractic and Osteopathy Board of South Australia (COBSA) commends the National Board on the work completed on the draft Codes and guidelines.

COBSA supports the range of amendments recommended by ACCRB at its recent National Conference, in particular the recommendation for a general restructuring of the Code of Conduct and Code of Professional Practice documents to assimilate the relevant parts of both documents into a single profession-specific Code for Chiropractors.

In addition, COBSA has particular concerns with the wording of two sections of the proposed Code of Professional Practice, and the impact that those sections may have on the clinical practice of Chiropractic.

We include the following suggestions for the re-wording of those paragraphs:

Radiology /Radiography

2.6.4 (delete and replace with) :

Routine x-ray screening of patients without relevant clinical indications is inappropriate. A registrant/provider must consider whether the potential benefit outweighs the risks of ionising radiation. A patient should never be exposed to unnecessary radiation.

Re-evaluation of biomechanical or postural disorders using x-ray needs to be carefully considered on an individual case basis, and not performed routinely. Only those views crucial to the re-assessment process should be used. A full x-ray series is rarely required for re-evaluation.
Consideration of other re-evaluation tools should be made and the benefit/risk ratio of further radiation exposure should be assessed before performing x-ray evaluation for biomechanical/postural purposes.

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Working with Adults and Children

2.10.7 (dot point 5) (delete and replace with) :

Should a parent elect to have their child undergo regular chiropractic examination or treatment in the absence of any symptomatic presentation, then it is the responsibility of the practitioner to provide the parent with a balanced view of the factual evidence relating to such examination or treatment as part of the informed consent process.

In addition COBSA would like to make an addition to the Advertising Code, Section 5 (What is unacceptable advertising), referring to the use of footnotes when citing scientific studies:

*...advertising of services **must not**:*

p) make claims which refer to scientific studies without providing references to those studies.

COBSA supports the view expressed at ACCRB that a number of the sections of the Code of Conduct document are irrelevant to Chiropractic practice, with the result that the document is longer and more cumbersome than it needs to be. We acknowledge that these sections have been included to allow the document to operate across a range of health professions.

We would encourage the National Chiropractic Board to remove those sections that do not apply to the Chiropractic profession in the process of producing a leaner and more user-friendly combined Code of Conduct / Practice document.

COBSA appreciates the opportunity to be able to contribute to this review process.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ken Leembruggen

Presiding Member
Chiropractic and Osteopathy Board of SA