

# Patient Care, Clinical and Professional Chiropractic Education

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## 1. DEFINITION OF CHIROPRACTIC AND CHIROPRACTORS

The Australian Chiropractors Association (ACA) supports the Definition of Chiropractic as described by the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) in 2001 - A health profession concerned with the diagnosis, management and prevention of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system, and the effects of these disorders on the function of the nervous system and general health. (Primary Reference - WFC Dictionary Definition World Federation of Chiropractic, 2001)

[https://www.wfc.org/website/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=110&lang=en](https://www.wfc.org/website/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=110&lang=en)

## 2. THE AUSTRALIAN CHARTER OF HEALTHCARE RIGHTS

ACA supports the Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) which describes the rights of patients and other people using the Australian health system. These rights are essential to make sure that, wherever and whenever care is provided, it is of high quality and is safe. The Charter recognises that people receiving care and people providing care all have important parts to play in achieving healthcare rights. The Charter allows patients, consumers, families, carers and services providing health care to share an understanding of the rights of people receiving health care. This helps everyone to work together towards a safe and high quality health system. A genuine partnership between patients, consumers and providers is important so that everyone achieves the best possible outcomes. (Primary Reference - ACSQHC)

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/A-guide-for-patients-consumers-carers-and-families-v3.pdf>

- Chiropractic clinical practice, education and training should embrace the value of best available evidence, clinical experience, and shared decision-making whilst providing patient-centred care.

### 3. PATIENT AND CONSUMER CENTRED CARE

ACA supports that patient-centred approaches to care can lead to improvements in safety, quality and cost effectiveness, as well as improvements in patient satisfaction. ACA supports patient-centred care and that chiropractors work in partnership with consumers. Some examples of how chiropractors can partner with consumers include: asking consumers about their needs and preferences and working to meet them; using shared decision-making to help consumers make decisions about their health and care; ensuring that consumers have the option of support people or translators during consultations if they need them; and using communication strategies that are tailored to the needs and preferences of the consumer. (*Primary Reference - ACSQHC*)

<http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/patient-and-consumer-centred-care/>

- Chiropractic education and training should equip chiropractors to work effectively and collaboratively to deliver health and quality of life outcomes for patients.

### 4. NATIONAL REGULATION AND ACCREDITATION SCHEME (NRAS)

ACA supports the strategic outcomes proposed in the NRAS Strategy 2015-20 of:

A: Reduced risk of harm to the public associated with the practice of regulated health professions.

B: Assurance that registered health practitioners are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner.

C: Increased public confidence in the effective and efficient regulation of health practitioners.

- Chiropractic education and training should ensure that chiropractors are qualified to practice within the scope as defined by National standards, Codes and Guidelines in the Australian regulatory environment. (*Primary Reference - AHPRA*)

<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-AHPRA/What-We-Do/NRAS-Strategy-2015-2020.aspx>

### 5. ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND PROGRAMS OF STUDY FOR THE CHIROPRACTIC PROFESSION.

ACA supports the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA) Ltd as the independent and nationally recognised body responsible for ensuring competency and high education standards in chiropractic for the Australasian community. (*Primary Reference - CCEA*)

- Chiropractic education and training should ensure that the Competency Standards are aimed at entry level into the profession and represent what the public would reasonably expect of a chiropractor in Australasia.

<http://www.ccea.com.au/>

- Chiropractic continuing education and training should ensure that the chiropractor meets the standard expected by the regulatory authorities and what the public would reasonably expect of a chiropractor in Australasia. (*Primary Reference – Chiropractic Board of Australia*)

<http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Codes-guidelines.aspx>

## 6. CONDUCT

ACA endorses the Chiropractic Board of Australia Code of Conduct to support chiropractors to deliver safe and effective health services within an ethical framework. All health practitioners have a duty to make the care of patients their first concern and to practise safely and effectively. Maintaining a high level of professional competence and conduct is essential for providing good care. (*Primary Reference – Chiropractic Board of Australia*)

- Chiropractic education and training should ensure that chiropractors are qualified to practice independently and ethically within the scope as defined by National standards, Codes and Guidelines in the Australian regulatory environment.

<http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Codes-guidelines/Code-of-conduct.aspx>

## 7. EVIDENCE

ACA supports initiatives which are designed to improve the quality of health care, to reduce the use of unnecessary, ineffective or harmful diagnostic procedures and interventions, and to facilitate the treatment of patients with maximum chance of benefit, with minimum risk of harm, and at an acceptable cost. Good clinical decision making also takes account of patients' preferences and values, clinicians' values and experience, and the availability of resources. Ideally, the clinical recommendations should demonstrate a strong, clinically important, beneficial effect of the intervention and management. (*Primary Reference – NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines Portal*)

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines-publications/how-nhmrc-develops-its-guidelines>

- Chiropractic education and training (including FLA), clinical practice and management should reflect the biopsychosocial model of healthcare and be underpinned by biologically plausible theories and peer-reviewed research.

## 8. RESEARCH

ACA supports that health and medical research is research that aims to improve the health and well-being of people. It draws on our knowledge of the human body and the world around us to find ways to cure and prevent disease; reduce injury and disability; improve the delivery of health services; and help us to lead longer healthier lives. (*Primary Reference - Research Australia*)

<http://researchaustralia.org/>

- Chiropractic education and training should support the development of research skills to improve the health and well-being of people and innovations in care. Faculties, Schools, Departments or Organisations who educate chiropractors should focus on skill development in primary care, research, inter-professional collaboration and emerging health care models and modalities.
- ACA supports the translation of current best-evidence into clinical practice.

## 9. CHIROPRACTORS IN THE AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND INTER-PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION

ACA supports Chiropractors as primary healthcare practitioners who use manual therapies and active care to treat and prevent dysfunction of the musculoskeletal system. Chiropractors consider the biopsychosocial aspects of musculoskeletal pain and work collaboratively with other healthcare providers in the promotion of health and optimum musculoskeletal function.

ACA believes that Chiropractors as registered healthcare professionals in Australia and as part of the Allied Health Professions:

- A. have an essential role to play in a high functioning, modern health care system;
  - B. can provide the specialised health expertise needed to achieve high quality care and best health outcomes; and
  - C. use professional guidelines and clinical decision making tools to support evidence based clinical judgement.
- Chiropractic education and training should support the development of skills and behaviours to ensure compliance with the Code of conduct for registered health practitioners which seeks to assist and support chiropractors to deliver safe and effective health services within an ethical framework. All health practitioners have a duty to make the care of patients their first concern and to practise safely and effectively. Maintaining a high level of professional competence and conduct is essential for providing good care.

<http://www.chiropracticboard.gov.au/Codes-guidelines/Code-of-conduct.aspx>