



# ATTADALE CHIROPRACTIC NEWSLETTER for Joe Hockey

Many people would rather die than think and many do. Please network this newsletter with some of the thinkers that you know.

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What turf is organised medicine hoping to capture?

That 'turf' was well described in David Hanger's article, arising from the New Zealand Commission of Inquiry; "Chiropractic Under Oath".

*One of the commission's most important findings was that vertebral subluxations in the chiropractic sense do exist and that locating and correction of this condition is a valid and highly effective method of removing the cause of many illnesses.*

*The greatest difficulty facing the chiropractic profession is getting the message across to the population at large that most of them are walking around with at least one vertebral subluxation.*

*Yet there is now ample*

## Saving Medicare

"we are going to have to look at ways that we can restructure the system to make it sustainable" ("Hockey waves big stick, points to shortage of cash", *The Saturday Age*, February 22).

Mr Hockey, I agree! End the illness industry's non-competitive two marketplace structure.

My decades of lobbying as a chiropractor leave me with the impression that vested interests give rise to exclusive dealing between government and the medical profession. A monopoly encourages price gouging. In comparison to fees in the private health marketplace, medical fees in the public health marketplace have skyrocketed.

Exclusive dealing between government and medicine wastes vast amounts of money. Australia's 1977 Webb Report, reflects that exclusive dealing denied millions of public patients of their right to choose direct access to Medicare funded chiropractic care.

The Report noted; "the majority of chiropractic patients have attended a medical practitioner for the same specific symptoms they presented to the chiropractor. .... The majority of patients in those studies had discarded conventional medical therapy because of failure to obtain relief --<sup>i</sup> The Report went on to say; "From these data the conclusion must be drawn that chiropractic is emerging as an established occupation with a large and growing clientele, the majority of whom report high levels of satisfaction with the treatment they received."<sup>ii</sup>

Mr Hockey will your silence lend support to Medicare continuing to fund millions of inappropriate diagnoses and failed medical treatments; as it has for over 30 years?

Two marketplaces structure Australia's illness industry. Most patients "shop" in the public health marketplace where a set of trade barriers deny chiropractors market entry. Unlike commerce exclusive dealing is not illegal in the illness industry. It remains a very effective and profitable restraint of trade for the medical profession.

Both Canada and Australia endure a similar massive waste of money on public health care. The content of the comprehensive publication: *Squandering Billions; health care in Canada* identifies cost, savings, and health care improvements, many of which may apply to Medicare.

A couple of quotes about chiropractic patients in Canada may clarify why organised medicine opposes insurance cover for chiropractic care. "Over 30 percent of all visits to general practitioners are for back and spine related problems"<sup>iii</sup> "When patients go to chiropractors, they rarely ever return to the MD for back or spinal related problems, thus threatening income from one third of all medical visits."<sup>iv</sup> Chiropractors see a very wide array of spine related problems.

evidence available to show that a substantial number of people in most countries of the world suffer the effects of vertebral subluxations.

The New Zealand Commission of Inquiry into Chiropractic was perhaps the first government sponsored investigation to discover the epidemic proportions of this often latent cause of much of Man's ills. END

**The multibillion dollar question in medicine's turf war is:** Will the substantial number of people in most countries of the world who suffer the effects of vertebral subluxations have their subluxation related symptoms medically managed using drugs and/or surgery or will those millions of patient have chiropractors locate and correct their subluxations?

### **Limiting Medicare and insurance reimbursement to only evidence based treatment.**

The AMA suggested that insurance payments to chiropractors be limited to disorders for which there is researched evidence of effectiveness. Equal treatment under the law would demand that all branches of medicine are subjected to that same prerequisite.

Mr Hockey are you aware that one branch of medicine receives 10 billion dollars, yes, \$10,000,000,000 without meeting that criterion?

According to a World Health Organisation expert; no country had been able to clearly link mental health policy or investment to a credible, consistent and evidence-based assessment of what works best and at what cost. If you want confirmation Mr Hockey please view the must see documentary at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFhm-xhQocM> and read: <http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/cross-check/2013/05/04/psychiatry-in-crisis-mental-health-director-rejects-psychiatric-bible-and-replaces-with-nothing/>

New research reported in the *British Medical Journal* shows evidence based medicine is an oxymoron. Researchers found that 2,000 of 3,000 common medical treatments have been shown to be “ineffective, unproven, or not worth the risk.” *The Washington Post* revealed this startling study an article in 2013: [“Surprise! We don't know if half our medical treatments work.”](#)

Mr Hockey, how much could be saved if Medicare refused to fund the “2,000 of 3,000 common medical treatments (that) have been shown to be “ineffective, unproven, or not worth the risk”?”

### **Limiting Medicare and insurance reimbursement to medical treatments that have relatively safe outcomes.**

Mr Hockey what is your estimate of the annual rate of Australia's iatrogenesis? That word refers to death and permanent harm arising from medical treatment as distinct from the patient's disorder.

Successive governments have for decades failed to truthfully account for and publish true rates of the epidemic magnitude of iatrogenesis. Silence is a horrific aspect of exclusive dealing; it allows the dangerous illusion that public health is acceptably safe.

Exclusive dealing financially prevents some public patients being able to access available safer managements of choice. I have widely circulated the article at: <http://www.attadalechiropractic.com/news-views/articles-of-interest/a-journalist's-assignment.aspx> Medicare must not continue to blindly fund an iatrogenic epidemic!

Please, Mr Hockey consider the cost benefit of collecting and widely publishing accurate data about Australia's iatrogenic epidemic.

Best wishes from: Michael McKibbin DC

We are interested to know what you think of this newsletter, please email your opinion to us at: [michael.mckibbin@attadalechiropractic.com](mailto:michael.mckibbin@attadalechiropractic.com) Thank you.

i Report of the committee of enquiry into chiropractic, etc. April 1977. Aust. Govt Publishing Services Canberra 1977 P49

ii *ibid* p449-500

iii Squandering Billions: health care in Canada. Bannerman, Gary et al . Publisher Hancock House page 213

iv *Ibid* page 235