

1 March, 1999

The Chiropractic Legislation Concern Group (CLCG) was formed by doctors of chiropractic who are concerned with the progress and quality of the registration legislation. We appreciate the opportunity and feel honored to be of service in this very important matter. CLCG will enthusiastically provide any assistance and pertinent information that will expedite the enactment of this legislation. We respectfully submit the following recommendation to the Health Service Panel for consideration.

1. QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION

Reference: CHIROPRACTORS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 428.

Part II, Chiropractors Council, Section 5 (b) Function of the Council. “The Council shall ... set and review the qualification standards for registration as a registered chiropractor and related registration matters.”

The Chiropractors Registration Ordinance has been in existence since 1993. At the time of the Council Chambers meeting on January 11, 1999, there was still no well defined and accepted qualification standards for registration as a registered chiropractor and the Ordinance had still not been enacted.

In response to the Legislative Council’s invitation to the Chiropractors Legislation Concern Group for its opinion and for additional information, CLCG has studied chiropractic education and licensure requirements in Australia, British, Canada, and United States. The requirements, although rigorous, are slightly different in each country. As a result of this research, and in the interests of fairness to the community and practitioners, CLCG recommends that a chiropractic degree with internship served be set as the “minimum” qualification for government registration. This will encourage our new graduates to return to service our community and will in no way deter any doctor who has additional qualifications from practicing in Hong Kong. This may also help provide qualified doctors of chiropractic to fill associate position.

Additionally, the government (Chiropractors Council) should not require items, e.g. membership or recommendation, from any private or professional association for provisional qualifications for registration.

2. GOVERNMENT AUTONOMY

Reference: CHIROPRACTORS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 428.

Part II, Chiropractors Council, Section 3 (2)(c) Establishment of the Council “The Council shall consist of - Five persons who are chiropractors each of whom shall be appointed by the Governor for a term not exceeding three years.”

Doctors of Chiropractic appointed to the Chiropractors Council should not be limited to members of any private or professional association, but be open to the chiropractic profession at large. Since it’s inception, the Chiropractors Council has consisted of chiropractors who are members and/or officers in the same association. This may present an opportunity for bias and cronyism in the administration of Council matters.

CLCG recommends that all chiropractors practicing in Hong Kong have fair and equal consideration for appointment to the Council, regardless of membership in any private or professional association.

3. CHIROPRACTIC TRAINING AND EDUCATION

CLCG recommends that the government should have policies and regulations in encouraging Hong Kong residents who have studied chiropractic overseas to return to Hong Kong and provide chiropractic service in Hong Kong. We hope that the study of chiropractic could be introduced in various universities in Hong Kong in the future.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR FOREIGN CHIROPRACTORS

CLCG recommends that all foreign Chiropractors who wish to practice in Hong Kong should be treated equally. The government should have clear and concise policies in regulating the employment of foreign workers in Hong Kong without consulting private interest groups.

5. CODE OF PRACTICE

Reference: CHIROPRACTORS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 428.

Part II, Chiropractors Council, Section 6 (b) Power of the Council “The Council may - issue a Code of Practice and make rules for the professional conduct discipline of registered chiropractors.”

The Code of Practice is in its fifth draft. The urgency in finalizing the Code is paramount in the process of completing the articles for the Registration Ordinance. The code, in its present configuration, contains items that do not pertain directly to the safe practice of chiropractic. These items are needlessly restrictive to well-meaning

practitioners, counter-productive to public education and service, and not consistent with up-to-date standards.

CLCG recommends that the drafting and the finalizing of the Code proceed in a more transparent manner. More progressive models and successful example from different countries should be consulted. CLCG requests the opportunity for meaningful participation in the drafting of the Code of Practice.