

Policy statement by Chiropractic Australia regarding Inter-Professional Practice.

The Australian healthcare system is based on the cooperation of different professionals and their ability to work together toward the best outcome for patients. Chiropractors have specialised knowledge and skill to contribute to the health care team in the area of disorders of the neuromusculoskeletal system in general, and the spine in particular.

Chiropractic Australia supports the contributions that chiropractors make to patient-centred, evidence-based care. Chiropractors recognise the importance of biopsychosocial factors in many healthcare problems, including spinal pain and dysfunction and are strong contributors to health and wellness strategies such as health promotion.

As members of the healthcare team chiropractors support public health initiatives, such as health promotion, hospital based care, palliative care, immunisation, infection control, sanitation measures and occupational health and safety. Chiropractic Australia advocates that chiropractors consult with other health professionals where advice is required outside of the chiropractor's expertise.

Chiropractors work with a variety of health professionals in making their contributions to optimise patient well-being. Chiropractic Australia endorses research findings that show that the best patient outcomes can be derived from a multidisciplinary approach.¹

Reference

1. Scascighini L, Toma V, Dober-Spielmann S, Sprott H. Multidisciplinary treatment for chronic pain: a systematic review of interventions and outcomes. *Rheumatology (Oxford)* 2008, May;47(5):670-8