MEDIA RELEASE

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Chiropractors Back GP Red Tape Reduction

The National Board of the Chiropractors’ Association of Australia (CAA) has met and endorsed the recent call by the Chief of Primary Health Care for direct funding of Allied Health services and the cutting out of GPs.

According to a report in the Australian Financial Review (AFR 7 February 2013, p 1,8) Dr Bateman, the Chief of Primary Health Care, argues that the use of chronic disease care plans, which require GPs to prescribe for services such as podiatry, are too complex and create an unnecessary burden for GPs.

Dr Bateman is the chief of Primary Health Care, the owner of 77 medical centres in Australia.

The CAA Board expressed their support for the reduction in waiting times for GPs by cutting out the red tape of chronic disease plans.

CEO of the CAA (National) Mr Andrew McNamara said, “GPs are drafting treatment plans for gatekeeper reasons. It takes time and it costs the taxpayer money. Both patient and GP time are being wasted.”

“Dr Bateman’s suggestion makes sense. If you cut GP time on paperwork, you will cut waiting times. Patients are intelligent enough to know which Allied Health professional they should be seeing for their condition.”

“By seeing that Allied Health professional direct, GPs will have more time for patients. Moreover, patients will get the treatment they need faster,” Mr McNamara said.

The CAA Board however did not agree with Dr Bateman’s assessment of Medicare Locals. “The CAA supports Medicare Locals. It is a multi-disciplinary approach to identifying health care needs.”

“As a model of collaborative health, Medicare Locals are a good start,” Mr McNamara said.

Further inquiry: Bevan Lisle, Communications Director, CAA (National) 02 4731 8011