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EX: MIC

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## **CCEA EXAMINATION - DESTROYING THE DIVERSITY OF CHIROPRACTORS**

We would like to take this opportunity to inform fellow chiropractors and associated colleges of the profession of the recently introduced and enforced CCEA proficiency/ equivalency examination that requires every foreign graduate to successfully complete, to gain licensure in Australia. We feel it our duty and reflective of our commitment to the profession to bring this matter to the attention of others, as many are unaware of this change in registration requirements.

We recently graduated from Palmer – Davenport and returned to Western Australia to practice, which was once an easy transition. It now involves taking an outrageous, humiliating, time consuming, and costly examination that bears little relevance to the practice of chiropractic. This exam has sabotaged employment opportunities and our professional development due to time and money.

We would like to outline just a few of the most important concerns we had with the examination and associated process:

- It is extremely difficult to contact anyone involved with the process and harder to get a reply.
- CCEA is supposed to assess the educational standards of foreign programs. We feel this is not the case, the test must be taken by any foreign graduate regardless of school attended and qualifications attained.
- CCEA has been refused certification twice by CCEI due to policy flaws. Palmer is accredited by CCEUS which is a member of CCEI. We feel any program accredited by an international association should supercede those that are not.
- A press release on the web site states the ACCE is still in control until the time the CCEA is accredited by CCEI. ACCE accepted Palmer qualifications as a reciprocal qualification in Australia. This is not being honoured.
- It is only available in the Eastern States. No provision is made for the test to be sat at any time in WA even though they now support their own chiropractic program.
- It is outrageously expensive, even by American NBCE standards. Each individual is out at the very least \$2100.
- No written confirmation of testing sites, times or results was available. Receipts for monies received and a certificate was issued eventually only after multiple requests. It seems these should be basic and routine business procedures.
- No identification is required at the test site, anyone could take the test if they wished.
- The web site is misleading. The format of the test is not as it is described, and no confirmation of results is given, written or by email. The web site was altered each time contact was made with the CCEA, even the day we took the exam.
- All exams were written, reviewed, supervised and graded by Macquarie university staff. No outside or independent body was involved with any of the testing. This implied the exam was purely testing the ability to take a Macquarie University exam, and confirmed by being the exact final exam the last graduating class took. This also indicates there is no standardization of the testing; which ever location the test is given, designs the test. This was also confirmed by the subsequent test given in May at RMIT. This exam beared no resemblance in format or content.

- Part II written is exactly that, predominately written, therefore leaving answers to questions open to interpretation of the grader. Part III is completely verbal, once again leaving answers open to interpretation to the graders.
- No grading or testing criteria is available.
- False information was given by multiple individuals regarding results of test and forwarding of results.

We feel this test is absolutely unnecessary for any graduate of an accredited Chiropractic Educational Facility. We feel this exam is purely a money making venture for the supposedly non-profit CCEA. After being involved with this exam process we have little respect for this organization and their principles. If personal funds were free-flowing we would not hesitate in seeking legal representation to recoup the costs.

We feel this exam is extremely discriminatory to those Australians that accept the opportunity and choose to be educated outside the country, in our case the Fountainhead of Chiropractic, the birth place and origin of chiropractic as it is today, and those who wish to come and assist in the promotion of chiropractic and the profession in Australia. The number of overseas trained chiropractors is extremely small, and feel they pose no threat to those graduating from the Australian colleges or the enrollment numbers of these schools. If this exam is to remain all students should be required to take a standardized independently generated exam to practice in Australia, not only overseas trained chiropractors. The other option is to reinstate reciprocity for accredited chiropractic programs internationally.

Without the American schools, namely Palmer and its history of producing leaders in the profession, there would be no chiropractic profession, let alone an educational program in Australia. In response to this we urge the profession to assist overseas trained graduates now and in the future to be given the respect many of you have enjoyed over the years as fellow chiropractors with equivalent training and education and force the CCEA to either abolish this exam, accept accredited college qualifications or restructure the testing situation, and state registration boards to re-evaluate their accrediting bodies and state requirements. We trust we have the support of the chiropractic community in regards to this matter as feel it has a great impact on the future diversity of educational backgrounds of practicing chiropractors. We feel this is an integral component of continuing to make the profession in Australia so rich and progressive.

We can be contacted directly at  
more information is available at [www.ccea.com.au](http://www.ccea.com.au)

for further information, or