

The Board.

I recently applied for a limited license to practice Chiropractic, and was advised that no such concession was currently available.

Briefly stated, this is my 34th year of continuous practice. I was among the first batch of licenses issued in New South Wales in February 1979, my original number being 50. I have also practiced in Queensland, California and Arizona. I was a former lecturer at Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, and Palmer College of Chiropractic – West in Silicon Valley. I completed a year in residence in radiology under Dr Joe Howe, and I am the author of *A Medicolegal Understanding of Whiplash*.

At 73 years I am still fit beyond my age, but I choose to continue working limited hours. To some, Chiropractic is a calling, not just a job. I am insured with Guild to work a maximum of twelve hours per week and believe, given my age and my experience, that I should be afforded the opportunity to hold a Chiropractic license that permits me to work similar hours, and to undertake lesser continuing education hours.

I suggest that any reduction in licensure and educational requirements be based on a sliding scale that takes into account the practitioner's age, and the number of years he or she has been in continuous practice. Assuming that the qualifying age for a limited license to practice kicks in at (say) 60 or 65 years, and recognition of years of practice commences at (say) 25 years, the upper level of dispensation (say 70 years of age and 30 years of practice) could be a license valid for a total of twelve hours per week (at a proportionately reduced cost), with a requirement of just ten hours of continuing education – five formal and five informal.

Other practitioners in a similar situation to mine find they are, proportionately, paying greater than three times the cost for their licenses, with significantly lesser income, than younger chiropractors who work forty or more hours per week.

Those of us who have done the hard yards deserve some level of recognition for our accumulated knowledge, and our demonstrated dedication to the profession. Other cultures revere age as being synonymous with wisdom. Perhaps we should take a leaf out of their book.

Dr R. Harris