

Chiropractic Workforce Research-Australia

Participant Information Sheet

Name of Project: Chiropractic Workforce – An Australian survey
Information sheet

You are invited to participate in a WEB-Survey of the chiropractic workforce in Australia. The purpose of this study is to investigate the nature and supply of chiropractic services across Australia. In this study we seek your views on the state of the Chiropractic profession in Australia, and on various factors influencing the supply and demand of chiropractic services across Australia.

The study is being conducted by Associate Professor Goran Strkalj, Dr. Sharyn Eaton, Dr. Ramon Fernandez-Caamano, and Associate Professor Rodney Bonello, all Academics from the Department of Chiropractic at Macquarie University in Sydney. The Chiropractors' Association of Australia-National and Macquarie University have provided financial support for this study. Contact details for the research team are: email: sci.workshop@mq.edu.au, telephone: (02) 9850-6389, mailing address: Manpower Research Team, Department of Chiropractic, Faculty of Science, Macquarie University, E7A-225, North Ryde, NSW 2109.

If you decide to participate, and click "Yes" below, you will be redirected to the actual survey. In that survey you will be asked to complete a questionnaire which should take 5 – 15 minutes. You will be asked to express your views on chiropractic, supply and demand of chiropractic in your region and in Australia, availability of service in your specific region, and your opinion on the number of chiropractic graduates coming out of Australian Universities. If you decide not to participate in our web-survey, you can click on "No" below. If that is your stated preference, you will be thanked for your consideration, and will not be directed to the survey.

Any information or personal details gathered in the course of the study are confidential (except as required by law). No individual will be identified in any publication of the results. Although the results of this study will be published, no personally identifiable information will be revealed. The data will be kept in secure servers by the Research Team. A summary of the results of the data can be made available to you on request. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the results, please contact the research team at sci.workshop@mq.edu.au.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary: you are not obliged to participate and if you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without having to give a reason and without consequence.

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the Macquarie University Ethics Review Committee (Human Research). If you have any complaints or reservations about any ethical aspect of your participation in this research, you may contact the Ethics Review Committee through the Director, Research Ethics (telephone 9850 7854; email ethics@mq.edu.au). Any complaint you make will be treated in confidence and investigated, and you will be informed of the outcome.

* 1. Would you like to participate in this study and be directed to the electronic Survey?

Yes

No

Chiropractic Workforce Research-Australia

Please refer to the "Participant Information" sheet for details regarding the purpose, confidentiality and ethics of this research project. Completion of this survey will indicate that you have agreed to participate. Thank you for filling out this anonymous survey.

Please complete using block letters and cross your answer as appropriate.

2. Your Gender is

Male

Female

3. To which of the following age groups do you belong?

Under 30 years

30-50 years

Over 50 years

4. In which country were you born?

5. What language do you speak at home?

6. From which chiropractic school did you graduate?

7. What year did you graduate?

8. What are your qualifications (including Post-Graduate qualifications)?

9. Currently, in which Post Code are you living?

Postal
Code:

10. Currently, in which Post Code are you practising?

Primary Practice Postal
Code:

Second Practice Postal
Code:

11. Generally, what do you think are the important factors that might affect a practitioner's choice of practice location?

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12. Generally, do you think there is an under or over supply of chiropractors in the suburb / town where you currently practice?

Undersupply

Oversupply

Neither (Adequate supply)

Don't know

Why do you think that is the case?

13. Generally, do you think there is an under or over supply of chiropractors in your state?

Undersupply

Oversupply

Neither (Adequate supply)

Don't know

Why do you think that is the case?

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14. Currently, Australian schools are graduating over 200 chiropractors per year. Do you think this is too many, too few, or the correct output?

Too many

Too Few

Correct output

If you think this is "Too Few" or "Too many", how many graduates do you think is closer to ideal?

15. What is your opinion on the general community's views on chiropractic?

16. What do you think could be done to further improve the perception of chiropractic?

17. Do you have any other comments related to the general public's perception of chiropractic?

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18. Have you practised in a prior location in the past?

Yes

No

If Yes, why did you decide to move from there?

19. If "YES", how long did you work at your last location (s)?

Years

Months

20. Do you think your chiropractic training prepared you well for clinical practice?

Adequate Training

Inadequate Training

21. In what area(s) within the curriculum do you think you were adequately prepared?

22. In what area(s) within the curriculum do you think you were NOT adequately prepared?

23. Did chiropractic clinical practice meet the expectations you held while you were a student?

Yes

No

If your answer to the above question was 'NO', In what way did clinical practice not meet your expectations?

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* 24. Do you currently practice Chiropractic?

Yes

No

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SECTION 2- For Chiropractors currently in active practice -

25. How many hours per week do you work?

26. How many patients per week do you see on average?

27. Could you see more patients in your normal working week: that is without extending your usual hours?

Yes

No

28. How much time do you usually spend on a patient?

First consultation (Minutes):

Subsequent standard consultations
(minutes):

Return of existing patient with new
problem (minutes):

29. Do you usually adjust a new patient on the first visit you see them?

Yes

No

(Please comment)

30. Do you have diagnostic imaging equipment at your practice?

Yes

No

Please comment:

31. Do you routinely X-ray your patients prior to initially commencing chiropractic care?

Yes

No

32. What percentage of your patients would you estimate require X-rays?

33. Do X-ray results often provide findings that change your management or care?

Yes

No

Please comment:

34. Do X-ray results sometimes provide contra-indications to types of care?

Yes

No

Please comment:

35. Do X-ray results often improve your diagnosis or analysis?

Yes

No

Please comment:

36. Do you refer out for diagnostic imaging?

Yes

No

Please clarify what types of diagnostic imaging you usually refer out:

37. What percentage of your patients would you refer for the following services?

CT Scans	<input type="text"/>
Ultrasounds	<input type="text"/>
MRIs	<input type="text"/>
Blood Tests	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>
Pathology tests	<input type="text"/>

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38. Do you include in your Chiropractic care advice on the following:

- Diet / Nutrition
- Exercise
- Weight loss management
- Stress Management
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Family health
- Undertaking Blood pressure checks

Other (please specify)

39. Generally, how do most of your patients find out about your services? (please select one only)

- Referral from another healthcare professional
- Internal referral from another Chiropractor
- Referred by another patient
- Advertising (yellow pages, signage, etc.)
- Passing trade
- Other

For "Other", please specify

40. How would you describe your primary practice?

- Single operator
- Multiple chiropractors
- Multi-disciplinary

41. If you employ chiropractors, how do you engage them?

- As partners
- As associates
- As employees
- As locums
- Not Applicable

42. What is the main focus of your chiropractic care?

- Paediatrics
- Family Care
- Neurology
- Sports Chiropractic
- Animal Chiropractic
- Wellness/Preventative/Lifestyle
- General Care

43. How would you rate your relationship with GPs in your area?

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very poor

Any comments:

44. Do you have a referral system in place with another health care practitioner?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, what type of practitioner(s)?

45. Do you work with other healthcare professionals to satisfy the needs of your patients?

- Yes
- No

If Yes, what type of healthcare professional(s) do you work with?

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46. Last week, how many referrals did you have and from whom?

GP or other MD	<input type="text"/>
from Physiotherapist	<input type="text"/>
from Chiropractors not in my practice	<input type="text"/>
from Osteopath	<input type="text"/>
from masseur	<input type="text"/>
from other healthcare provider(s), specify type of provider	<input type="text"/>

47. Did you send any referral reports last week to health care personnel?

Yes

No

If "Yes", please specify number:

48. Did you send any referral reports last week to other chiropractors?

Yes

No

If Yes, how many in this last week?

49. How many conversations/phone calls did you have last week with any healthcare personnel (Other than chiropractors) regarding your patients?

50. Do you feel that you have good cooperation with other healthcare providers?

Mainly good cooperation

Both good and bad

Mainly lack of cooperation

51. Approximately how many house calls would you make each week?

52. In how many clinics do you currently work?

53. Where do you practice? Please provide the Post Code for each location where you currently practice.

Primary Location:	<input type="text"/>
Location 2:	<input type="text"/>
Location 3:	<input type="text"/>
Location 4:	<input type="text"/>

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54. How long have you practised at each of those locations?

In Primary

Location:

In Location

2:

In Location

3:

In Location

4:

55. When you were deciding on setting up your practice in your current location/s did you consider any other locations?

Yes

No

56. Why did you choose this/these locations over the others, and what was the most important factor affecting your decision?

57. How easy is it for you to find a locum when you need one?

Very easy

Not easy

About average

Very difficult

Never tried

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58. What is your average annual pretax net income as a chiropractor?

- This does not include product sales or any other business activity outside of direct chiropractic care of patients. Please include chiropractic analyses/diagnosis net income such as radiology income.

- Less than \$40,000
- \$40,000 to \$65,000
- \$65,001 to \$90,000
- \$90,001 to \$115,000
- \$115,001 to \$140,000
- \$140,001 to \$165,000
- \$165,001 to \$190,000
- \$190,001 to \$215,000
- More than \$215,000
- Prefer not to say.

59. Have you seriously considered moving clinic and setting up somewhere else?

- Yes
- No

60. If YES, where to and why?

61. Please estimate the percentage of your Symptomatic patients/clients that would in a typical week present symptoms arising from (% approximate):

Low Back	<input type="text"/>
Neck	<input type="text"/>
Thoracic region	<input type="text"/>
Headaches	<input type="text"/>
Upper limb (shoulder, elbow, wrist, fingers)	<input type="text"/>
Lower limb (hips, knees, ankles, toes)	<input type="text"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="text"/>
Visceral	<input type="text"/>

Chiropractic Workforce Research-Australia

62. Please estimate the percentage of your Asymptomatic patients/clients that you would see in a typical week at your practice (% approximate):

Preventive care for
general well-being

Rehabilitation

Other (Please specify)

63. Do you feel that physiotherapists or osteopaths have had a negative impact on your practice through competition?

Yes

No

Don't Know

(Please comment)

64. Do you feel that other professions have had a negative impact on your practice through competition?

Yes

No

Don't Know

Other (please specify)

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Our Research Team thanks you for your time, and for considering to participate in this study.

If you would like to receive a copy of the results of this study, please feel free to contact us via email at your convenience to: manpower@science.mq.edu.au