



A NEWS-BRIEF FROM THE ATTADALE CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

WOW!!!

Let us demolish the myth, that when compared to Medicine, Chiropractic posed a greater risk. MPs and medical bureaucrats used that myth to justify keeping chiropractic out of public health. Let me stress that when properly used, Medicine does a great deal of good, deserving our respect and support.

While preparing a submission to the WA government my fellow chiropractor, Dr Doug Winter and I researched harm arising from medical treatment as distinct from the patient's disorder. That term for that harm is 'iatrogenesis'. We came to understand that seemingly Australia's iatrogenic toll qualifies iatrogenesis as the third leading cause of death. The data is so imprecise that totals are guesstimates!

What looks to be a more recent and perhaps more comprehensive study was published in LE Magazine March 2004 under the title; **AS WE SEE IT DEATH BY MEDICINE**. Here is a key quote;

'The most stunning statistic, however, is that the total number of deaths caused by conventional medicine is an astounding 783,936 per year. It is now evident that the American medical system is the leading cause of death and injury in the US. (By contrast, the number of deaths attributable to heart disease in 2001 was 699,697, while the number of deaths attributable to cancer was 553,251.5)'

Normally, and in the cases of lesser numbers of industrial deaths such as airline crashes or mine disasters, government legally requires extensive reports and where necessary, remedial action.

When referring to iatrogenesis, Australian authors use the term 'epidemic'. Its extent is unknown to The Australian Bureau of Statistics, (ABS) whose cause of death data derives from cause of death on death certificates. Apparently, 'iatrogenesis', rarely if ever, appears on a death certificate.

Potential iatrogenic victims should be able to make informed decisions prior to submitting to the medical treatment that may cause their death. A national iatrogenic register could serve to define the causes and rates of thousands of such deaths and thus serve patient and public interest. However, a national iatrogenic register may increase the exposure of litigation against medical practitioners.

Government has a massive conflict between the interests of patients and medical economic interests. Iatrogenesis provides an exquisite definition of government loyalty.

It is hard to accept that government knowingly sponsors an epidemic, fails to both collect adequate data and then to decisively, and clearly, forewarn thousands of patients who are about to place their life at risk. Unless I have the foregoing all wrong, when compared to Medicine, Chiropractic is remarkably safe. On safety grounds alone Chiropractic should be integrated into public health.

I have written to each political party's health spokesperson to ask for her/his guesstimate of iatrogenic deaths and what if anything, they intend to do to forewarn future generations of medical patients.

Regards,

Michael McKibbin DC

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