



CHIROPRACTIC

# The Most Important Investigation of Chiropractic by a Government Commission

Editorial Staff

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- On Jan. 24 1978, the New Zealand governor-general referred to a Commission of Inquiry an investigation to determine the desirability of providing for reimbursement of chiropractic benefits.
- After 93 days of hearings, on Oct. 5, 1979 the commission released *Chiropractic in New Zealand: Report of the Commission of Inquiry* to the New Zealand House of Representatives.
- On Saturday, June 10, 2023. Mr. Chapman-Smith recounted the drama and strategy executed by the New Zealand DCs and their patients, and how the commission's findings impacted chiropractic worldwide for decades to come.

On Jan. 24 1978, the New Zealand governor-general referred to a Commission of Inquiry an investigation to determine the desirability of providing for reimbursement of chiropractic benefits under the New Zealand Social Security Act and the New Zealand Accident Compensation Act. The commission was directed to consider:

- Chiropractic practice and philosophy, as well as its scientific and educational basis
- Whether chiropractic constitutes a separate and distinct healing art
- What contribution chiropractic could make to health services in New Zealand
- Any other matters the commission thought relevant to the general objectives of the inquiry

The Commission of Inquiry was extremely thorough, visiting New Zealand chiropractic and physical therapy offices, Canadian and U.S. chiropractic colleges (Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, National University of Health Sciences, Palmer College of Chiropractic and Southern California University of Health Sciences), medical associations and government agencies in

Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

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Two attorneys represented the New Zealand Chiropractic Association before the New Zealand Commission of Inquiry. One of those attorneys was Mr. David Chapman-Smith, best known as the founding secretary general of the World Federation of Chiropractic from 1989-2014.

In a rare presentation at the Centenary Conference of the New Zealand Chiropractors' Association in Wellington, New Zealand, on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Mr. Chapman-Smith recounted the drama and strategy executed by the New Zealand DCs and their patients, which culminated in the critical findings of the New Zealand Commission of Inquiry that impacted the future of chiropractic worldwide for decades to come.

This presentation is a must-view for every doctor and student to understand this milestone in chiropractic's path to acceptance. It is available at:

[chiropracticreport.com/david/nz\\_david\\_chapman-smith.mp4](https://chiropracticreport.com/david/nz_david_chapman-smith.mp4).

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*Editor's Note:* Mr. Chapman-Smith's discussion of the professional and global impact of the commission's findings can be found at approximately the 58-minute mark of the video.

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