

From: Colin Smyth
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Good medical practice
Date: Monday, 30 July 2018 8:39:31 PM

Dear Dr Flynn

I refer to Ahpra's recent newsletter regarding the potential change to Medical practice guidelines.

I refer to part of section 2.1 as listed below

"Community trust in the medical profession is essential. Every doctor has a responsibility to behave ethically to justify this trust. The boundary between a doctor's personal and public profile can be blurred. As a doctor, you need to acknowledge and consider the effect of your comments and actions outside work, including online, on your professional standing and on the reputation of the profession. If making public comment, you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views and indicate when your personal opinion differs. Behaviour which could undermine community trust in the profession is at odds with good medical practice and may be considered unprofessional."

Can you clarify this for me.

Does it mean that if I don't agree with same sex marriage, that I am not supposed to say anything on social media or anywhere else, because the Board supports SSM, even though 38% of the Australian population did not support the concept. Are you saying that my right to free speech is to be restricted?

A similar argument could be made for euthanasia where there is a vast range of different opinions. If I oppose euthanasia but the board came out in favour of it, would it mean I could not speak out about it?

I do not think that it is the Board's position or right to dictate what I feel on some of these more contentious social issues. The Board's role is surely to make sure that doctors are competent to practice not to be a social watchdog.

Regards

Colin Smyth

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