From: Kleinig, Timothy [redacted]
To: medboardconsultation
Subject: 'Public consultation on Good medical practice'
Date: Thursday, 2 August 2018 4:41:42 PM

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment.
Due to clinically urgent matters I will not have time to prepare a full response. In general the code changes are excellent and I fully support the majority of them.
However, I would like to fully endorse the opinion expressed more fully and forcefully by others regarding some more contentious 'cultural' changes.

1) As noted by others the statement "If making public comment, you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views and indicate when your personal opinion differs" will have a chilling effect on free speech, for contentious topics. It is impossible to define what 'the profession's generally accepted views' are on these matters. Compulsory secret ballots would be required to establish a majority view. Further, what degree of majority view would be required to establish 'general acceptance'? 50%? 75%? 99%? And should all 'votes' be equal on these matters? Or should expert opinion rule?
2) The statement "Ensuring that your personal views do not adversely affect the care of your patient" may prove dangerous. Everyone believes that their personal views reflect what they think are a patient's ultimate good. This statement should be deleted or modified. "Ensuring that your personal views do lead you to treat patients unfairly, discourteously, or disrespectfully."
3) The term 'culturally safe' is woolly and undefined. It is not clear what the term adds above being 'culturally aware' and 'culturally respectful'.
4) It is not clear, in practical terms, what medically problematic practises these sections of the revised code are seeking to target. If there is good justification, it would be very useful if the board would be able to list some examples of problematic medical behaviours that the board feels would be better addressed by the proposed code. Then codification of the solution could occur less contentiously.

Yours Sincerely,

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