

**From:** Harriet Remy-Maillet  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Doctors' Code of Conduct Consultation Paper  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 August 2018 4:59:50 PM

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my deep concern at the proposal to pressure doctors to accept cultural beliefs and practices that may be contrary to good medical practice, according to some of your members.

This draft code of conduct that will apply to all Australian doctors if passed, requires doctors to be "culturally safe" and comply with a patient's beliefs about gender identity and sexuality with no provision for a doctor to differ in their professional judgement.

"Culturally safe" does not necessarily mean "medically safe" which could lead to negative health outcomes. Examples include child marriage and genital mutilation. These, plus more recently, gender identity or sexual orientation would have permanent consequences of a physical and psychological nature.

Recalling the Hippocratic oath "Do no harm," it would seem imperative to leave the current legislation unchanged.

Any changes to the current guidelines to reduce the freedom of doctors to publicly debate the merits of medical treatments would effectively gag doctors from speaking out. Doctors must be permitted the freedom to uphold good health standards without jeopardizing their scruples or careers.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Harriet Remy-Maillet (Mrs)

