The Medical Board of Australia,

Regarding the proposed draft of good medical practice, I find it extremely disturbing that decisions for medical care are essentially handed to the community, or whoever has something to say or the loudest voice. Considering a doctor spends quite a number of years of their life studying to become a qualified medical practitioner, with the express purpose and promise to save and safeguard life, it seems totally improper, if not criminal, to then expect them to put aside professional and personal expertise and conscience and be subject to a whim of those who are not medical or who may seek to impose their own thoughts onto others in their power. How do you then propose to judge whether community sentiment is superior or inferior to the doctor's sentiment? When the culture changes, then who is right and wrong? I believe the medical board, yes, has a code of conduct for it's members. One that would honour and respect the profession and the dedicated people who serve the people of Australia. But by no means should there be even a taint of dictating to any other person what they may or may not think or believe. That is not medicine. That is not about the benefit of the patient, which is what I presumed the whole profession is about. That is not what we expect nor what we will tolerate in a free and democratic society. I would strongly encourage you to refrain from meddling with doctors and patients lives and livelihoods. In fact, I would ask, how dare you show such disregard for the people you are supposed to be representing, and therefore, us, the people who wish to trust and respect our doctors. With your proposals, we could not trust them to make decisions for our benefit and therefore we can not respect them either. How does our society fall to such depths? Are we not free to think and speak as we wish if it does no harm?

Sincerely worried,

Debbie Keeble