

**From:** Martin Cullen  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Public consultation on medical practice  
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Dear members of board,

I have read the proposal for code of conduct for doctors. I only have one thing to say, and that is regarding point 2.1 which infers doctors maintaining or being mindful of public comments and ensuring held beliefs of the medical fraternity with the possible ramification of punishment.

This is over reacting to say the least as it could be interpreted widely and poorly by peak medical bodies. It would be hard to ascertain majority opinion in many medical and ethical/ moral matters. What is considered "held" medical opinion is just that, opinion. Often not hard fact, sometimes it's a prejudiced opinion. I find it very hard to believe you can prosecute someone for falling outside medical consensus, only in extreme circumstances surely?

Would you prosecute a Philip nitschke or a junior doctor who opposes abortion or euthanasia? What is the medical consensus here? Or would you determine it on what you, a small group of non representative professionals, would consider ethical?

I don't see how you can quash medical opinions that differ? Where is your respect for freedom of speech and conscience? It would be sad if you were to become like the universities that seem to hate differing opinions that can be robustly argued in an open environment! How sad. How fearful you would make doctors who would like to express publicly an opinion. Surely they have a right to it?

Sent from my iPhone