

**From:** [REDACTED] Mascarenhas  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Public consultation on Good medical practice  
**Date:** Thursday, 16 August 2018 3:35:53 PM

---

Dear Sir/Madam

I have read the Draft Code and feel strongly that some of the changes proposed are not beneficial for the whole of the community, especially Section 2.1. "you need to acknowledge and consider the effect of your comments and actions outside work, including online, on your professional standing...you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views...when your personal opinion differs". This will prevent doctors from speaking out on important issues. It will stifle free speech and meaningful debate, what sort of country are we creating? Doctors are going to be fearful of being deregistered.

The Code seems to imply that doctors who have differing views will have a negative impact of "community trust" and be considered unprofessional. We need doctors who are courageous and are prepared to state their professional opinion in good faith for the real benefit of patients.

It is also of huge concern that doctors will have to endorse harmful cultural beliefs that are opposed to good medical practice and comply with patients' families demand, no matter what they demand.

There is no question that patients can obtain a second or third opinion before making important medical decisions.

It should be remembered that there was a time when majority of the profession once supported frontal lobotomy surgery and forced sterilisation of physical and mentally disabled people. How foolhardy was that?

In my view the proposed changes to the Code are unacceptable and are not necessary for the good of our country and time will tell that!

M F Mascarenhas