

**From:** James Zhang  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Doctor's opinion against revised code of conduct  
**Date:** Friday, 13 July 2018 12:22:15 AM

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Dear Medical Board of Australia,

My name is Dr James Zhang, and I am a SRMO in Sutherland Emergency department, going into GP practice next year.

Thank you for this public consultation on proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct - however, I would like to address my thoughts on the matter:

The proposed revisions are worrying, as they remove the rights of doctors, restricting both independent clinical decision-making and freedom of conscience for doctors. They propose that doctors cannot have a say about what is medical relevant or "medically irrelevant" in medical consultations. The proposal claims that gender ideology and sexual orientation, as well as other patient characteristics (point 3.4 in the draft proposal) are "medically irrelevant" in "decisions about access to medical care", which may not be the case. The proposals claim that only the patient and/or the patient's family can determine whether medical care is "culturally safe", such that patients or families could preclude doctors from determining what is medically relevant to their care, on the grounds that they do not consider the care "culturally safe" (points 2.1 and 4.8 in the draft proposal).

I believe this is both dangerous to good, ethical and evidence based medical practice. For example, a patient and/or a patient's family could demand a sex change operation, or other medical procedures or treatments on the basis of cultural preferences, regardless of medical risk. It would dangerous to good medical practice if discussion about consent (for medical treatment and procedures) were to exclude what the doctor considers medically relevant. This would belie the term "good medical practice" and obstruct the medical professional's freedom to exercise clinical judgment.

Yours sincerely,

Dr James Zhang