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**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
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Doctors are very highly qualified and among the most educated citizens in the country. They should be respected for their opinions – and they have a right to express these quietly to their patients. Confidentiality prevents them from disclosing the identity of a person with whom they have a personal discussion.

If I visit a doctor who alienates me, I don't visit that doctor again, particularly if I have time and choice. I have to weigh up my dissatisfaction with the available doctor against the urgency of my need.

But if a doctor cannot say what he/she thinks, I must suspect every doctor of hypocrisy. How can I trust and develop a relationship with a professional who may be expressing a stock line – this limits my opportunity to choose and build a relationship with someone with whom I feel confident.

A consultation with a doctor is a private conversation, and I (or rather the govt) pays for me to have the advice of a qualified person.

If that educated person has preferences or biases that do not support my personal beliefs or behaviours, so be it. We live in a free society. Forcing professionals to have views that align with the government, is an early step in regulating freedom of opinion.

Stand up for the rights of doctors to evaluate a situation on behalf of their patients and to express it to their patients. If they offend too many people, they won't have any patients.

Doctors should be obliged to provide safe care to all citizens without bias, however they should be under no pressure to support, endorse or empathise with cultural actions that they consider to be against the best interests of their patient.

I don't need to agree with my doctor in order to respect him/her. Ultimately, as a customer, I have the right to ignore a doctor's advice and to never return.

Anne McIntosh