

From: Rena Ng
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Regarding the proposed change to the medical board code of conduct
Date: Thursday, 2 August 2018 1:19:13 AM

To whom it may concern,

I have strong objections to the following change.

Regarding proposed code 2.1: "You need to acknowledge and consider the effect of your comments and actions outside work, including online, on your professional standing and on the reputation of the profession. If making public comment, you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views and indicate when your personal opinion differs. Behaviour which could undermine community trust in the profession ... may be considered unprofessional."

I feel this will stifle free speech, and the healthy debate that needs to occur regarding a myriad of important health topics. Free speech is a basic human right which doctors are also entitled to.

I feel this will be a barrier to the progress of the medical profession. An obvious example is Dr Ignaz Semmelweis, the obstetrician who was rejected by the medical community to the severe detriment of his mental health. All this for his advocacy of hand hygiene.

Kind regards,
Rena Ng