

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the public consultation on good medical practice  
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Dear Medical Board of Australia,

The proposed Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia makes it incumbent upon medical professionals to respect diverse gender identities and sexualities. This is a very different thing to respecting the patients themselves for gender identities and sexualities are rooted in behaviours. Some of the behaviours particular to each of those things have medical consequences so adverse that they are already costing the publicly funded medical system a fortune each year. Doctors should not be punished for trying to save the tax-payer money while trying to save the health of their patients.

The Board ought to change the wording of section 4.8.2 to reflect that it is the patient who is to be respected. Alternatively, perhaps requiring doctors to respect diverse smoking identities too would be logical. After all, it is disrespectful to smokers when doctors say that smoking cigarettes has adverse health consequences. Yet should not doctors have the liberty to tell patients that their behaviours have serious health consequences? Should not doctors be free to inform clients of how changing their behaviours would prevent them from catching and spreading diseases?

Yours sincerely,  
Michael Astle

[REDACTED]