

From: Ray Barnett
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Public consultation on Good medical practice
Date: Wednesday, 15 August 2018 4:37:27 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the proposed revisions to the code of conduct for doctors.

I note that the intention is to contain the opinion of doctors to those of the AHPRA.

The “profession’s generally accepted” views– how will they be determined? And what constitutes “generally accepted”? Fifty one percent? Of what – the whole membership or of a judicial committee? And who ensures that the committee itself is representative of the “generally accepted” views.

To take a contentious example, if fifty one percent of the AHPRA accepted the science that gender is biologically / chromosomally determined, would that then be the generally accepted view? And would the forty nine percent be prevented from expressing their more politically correct views?

It would seem to me that you are joining the collective of groups that want to legislate against free speech and diverse opinion. Are you really suggesting that by preventing honest opinion, you are improving the “community trust”? Will the community then trust doctors because we have no idea what their real opinion is on various health-cultural cross over issues? Is this honestly what you are imagining?

I cannot believe that this is a product of naivety. You are intelligent people. It is an attempt to silence.

You well know that we are pressured at every turn nowadays by vocal minority groups with strong newly fashionable ideologies. They are very welcome to their opinions. But so too ought doctors be welcome to theirs.

You would be aware from any casual reading of history that all attempts at uniformity end in brutality. In this case, it will be the brutality of investigations, suspensions, humiliations and more to remove people who are out of step with this or that minority group. That *will* be the result. It is already the result in other nations. Is that your intention, perhaps?

Doctors are not health-dispensing machines. They are people with developed world views and philosophies. If I dislike one, I can find another. There will be culturally sensitive issues on which they need to take a stand.

A Jehovah’s Witness believes that blood transfusions are wrong. What would cultural sensitivity demand?

A Muslim family believes that female genital mutilation is right and proper for their daughter. What would cultural sensitivity demand?

A group in society believes that vaccinations are injurious to their children. What would cultural sensitivity demand?

A Hindu family believes that sati (widow burning) is the best way to honour the deceased husband and

wants only some pain killers for the widow as they head back to India with the body. What does cultural sensitivity demand?

Silencing people does not promote unity. It coerces uniformity. It dishonours your profession.

I do not want a doctor whose opinion must always be hidden from me for fear of expulsion from the "in crowd." I want an honest doctor. I am well able to weigh his or her words and to accept them, reject them or move on.

Please do not take your profession down this pathway. Do not cave in to political correctness.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Barnett

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