

**From:** Steve Busch  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes  
**Date:** Monday, 23 July 2018 1:26:40 PM

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## **MEDICAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA RESPONSE TO PROPOSED CHANGES:**

I am very concerned for the proposals that are being foisted on the Medical Fraternity in Australia.

Although I am not in the Medical profession I have decided on my own volition to contest this drafting of a recent review for code of practice, because I see it under It undermining the fundamental structure of the medical profession.

I take exception to “page 7 paragraph 4 which states this:

*“Community trust in the medical profession is essential. Every doctor has a responsibility to behave ethically to justify this trust. The boundary between a doctor’s personal and public profile can be blurred. As a doctor, 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 is at odds with good medical practice and may be considered unprofessional.”*

In reality this is a threat to to the basic freedom of free speech to medical professionals, to speak and act according to their conscience, in turn this has the ongoing effect to potentially affect all of us as a community.

Medical personnel are already under heavy scrutiny to cooperate with ethical behaviour and common law, and history has shown us that in the past those that have acted unscrupulously, by and large have been prosecuted, and rightly so.

These proposed changes however add nothing more to good practice and instead threaten Freedom of Practice, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Research and Freedom to Campaign.

These four categories have encouraged the Medical fraternity to be especially successful to date. The Discipline has thrived under these basic human rights.

Furthermore this Proposed Code of Conduct serves to produce a “Herd Mentality” and potentially risk the livelihood of Doctors who, without acting in a defamatory or illegal way, stand to be potentially prosecuted for differing to the “Profession’s Position”

In a society now where our freedoms are being diminished on a daily basis, affirmative action needs to be taken to further stop these erosions in such an important institution as the Medical Fraternity.

Please respond,

Kind Regards,

Steve Busch 

Sent from my iPad