

From: David Curran
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
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To whom it may concern,

I am rather concerned about the Medical Board of Australia's revised code of conduct draft for medical practitioners.

My particular concern is in relation to Section 2. This deviates considerable from the current code. The best way to maintain community trust is for the community to know the doctor. When you state that a doctor should behave ethically to justify trust, does that mean decently? Or in a way commonly accepted? Or does it mean morally? Real trust in a doctor is when she/he is known to be professional competent.

Then buried in this draft is a clause concerning freedom of speech. A doctor's professional profile depends on both his/her public and personal reputation within the community, so in fact the doctor has, in a real sense, a duty to speak out one way or the other. It is better for community's trust, and for that matter the patient's trust, to know where a particular doctor stands on matters and issues. When a doctor speaks in the public domain the public usually assumes it to be a personal opinion, unless stated otherwise. The doctor should not have to indicate that the opinion differs from what the MBA considers "what is generally accepted". What may be generally accepted may well be common but it could well be morally wrong.

Don't stifle doctors with this is new code.

Yours sincerely,

David Curran