

From: Costa Di Biase
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: 'Public consultation on Good medical practice'
Date: Wednesday, 15 August 2018 8:55:10 AM

Dear board members,

some aspects of the new and improved "*Good Medical Practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia*" have me concerned. It is a good idea to present a united front to the non medical professional public as to acceptance of everything AHPRA states, this would maintain confidence that AHPRA knows best and it is in the best interests of any human to defer to their superiority in medical matters. There is a problem with mandating that anything a registered member says that may be considered contrary to your infallibility needs to be tagged as such. I speak to a lot of people, the ones who love to speak the most are conspiracy theorists. They like nothing better than to point out where the government has quashed free speech about a subject, it provides them with grist for the conspiracy mill. By placing restriction on the speech of doctors outside of their working hours you confirm that doctors are censored when it comes to telling the truth (as if they'd know anyway, right?)

Secondly, just as the "*boundary between a doctor's personal and public profile can be blurred*" admits that doctor's have a personal profile, it is quite simply a restriction on personal freedom to insist that a doctor modify anything they say simply because they are professionally registered with a certain government agency. If a doctor says "as a doctor...." then they are acting professionally, if they do not refer to their authority as a registered doctor then anything they say is personal and is easily discounted with the statement that this "is not a professional comment", as the need arises. This is the default position, just as I would not show a doctor a mole at my neighbor's bbq, s/he should not have to qualify everything with "this is a personal and not professional opinion". Aren't enough of our freedoms being eroded already that AHPRA has to add fuel to the fire?

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