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17/08/18

AHPRA .

I wish to make the following submission to the consultation on good medical practice as per the draft proposal.

Section 2.1:

This proposed clause is draconian. It seeks to violate a person's freedom of speech and practice of his/her belief system in the public square. It seeks to silence any dissent on medical matters to the view expressed by a select few in the administration of the medical board, thus threatening the livelihood of many in the medical profession. E.g. an opinion expressed by a doctor in an opinion piece on euthanasia could be at variance to the medical board's view thus endangering the doctor's registration, even though the doctor has not committed any form of mal-practice. It would prevent doctors from speaking on matters that clearly go against their consciences. To suggest that 'community trust' would be somehow damaged by this restriction on freedom of speech is farcical. It is rather a denial of the patient's right to information and a variety of opinions.

Why use such a nefarious term as "generally accepted views". This is code for eliminating anything that doesn't agree with the view held by the elite committee of the board and is open to abuse and subjective pressure.

This clause could see a doctor deregistered for merely having an opinion contrary to that of members of the board committee without having done anything to any patient.

Besides, section 2.1 contradicts sections 5.4 and 10.4, with reference to bullying and the rights of doctors to conscience objection. Section 2.12 is, in effect, a severe form of bullying.

My confidence in the medical profession is severely damaged when I see these sorts of proposals being considered.

Raylene Dore.