

From: Edward Knight
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Silencing of Doctors
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Hi,

I just wanted to express my concern at the recent action taken against Dr David van Gend in relation to "tweets" or social media forwards expressing concerns about same sex marriage and gender ideology.

It seems to me obvious that Doctors throughout the country would have different views to each other on almost every issue in society, and indeed, different views on how to treat patients. Some might value surgery, some might be against surgery. It's a nonsense to suggest that the only correct answer is the most popular one.

Our society must safeguard freedom of speech (derived from freedom of political communication in the Australian Constitution) so that advances can be made in our society. If the public or employees are not permitted to share ideas (which aren't even controversial by the way) then public debate on immigrant issues stops and advances in many areas of life simply don't occur. Would you enforce the muzzle on Darwin because his views were not in the majority?

Poorly worded "codes of conduct" proclaiming punitive action as a consequence of speech are open to misuse and abuse. Entirely subjective terms can be construed at the whim of whom ever is in charge. That is a great concern. Please, reconsider your stance on silencing dissent. This country is one built on freedom and we value that freedom.

Edward Knight