

**From:** Ulrich Kuhlmann  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Public Consultation on Good Medical Practice  
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A submission:

Please reconsider introducing proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for Australian doctors that seeks to compel them to accommodate cultural beliefs and practices in the decisions they make, many of which have little to nothing to do with accepted and proven practices that have a beneficial outcome for the health of the patient. Mixing the two will force doctors to undergo practices that they know would be detrimental to the health of their patient. Though they are 'talked up' and given unprecedented attention, practices that arise out of a superstitious beliefs that have no scientific basis should not be given equal place by our medical system, when all they can claim is a cultural warrant. If one culture had a different approach to a medical issue, then one may gain benefit by examining it for its claims, with the aim of improving an accepted practice in this culture, but to disregard proven practice without examination has no aim to improve but only to appease and equally likely to worsen an accepted practice even with all things equal. This brings me to another point; Every philosophy of medicine is not equally true, nor is one culture equally advanced in medicine to any other. Given that each of us have different qualities, reactions, responses to various treatments, there remains principles of true medicine that are true for all and not merely relative and dependant on culture, which we seem in our day to fall into only to avoid offence, as if it is wrong to disagree, even when we present rational arguments. This is a dangerous precedent that may only erode that which is good. Not all culture is good and many cultures have much in them that are bad. Just look. If you want multiculturalism in the medical field you'll get different doctors treating those of their own culture. If you want doctors to act culturally neutral, you'll get doctors that will be values neutral. this won't work. A culture contains the values that bind a society together and make it function. The traditional culture of our country has been overall very good and been a wonderful blessing to us. Why not value it for what it has proven to be. Hope you reconsider.

Kind regards,  
Ulrich Kuhlmann

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