

From: Lafferty, Tony [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: RE: Consultation on Good Medical Practice [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 15 August 2018 3:37:32 PM

Dear [REDACTED] – thank you for alerting me to this change.

I do not believe that this change has been subjected to fair and transparent scrutiny or consultation.

I fully agree that medical practitioners and any profession for that matter will have professional boundaries which limit their response when at work or speaking on behalf of their employer (as a public servant) or working for an organisation (eg. ACT Government or Federal Government etc). It appears that the proposed changes aim either actively or passively to restrict practitioners right to hold views or beliefs as a private individual. Furthermore, it may be implied that this may extend to restricting not only to views which they hold and share (eg. social media) but also their presence at gatherings where they imply an affiliation or interest at odds with views held by some.

If this is the intent and the implication of this change, it represents a very significant change and potentially an infringement of individual rights to freedom of speech or of association. As such it would seem to significantly infringe the Human Rights of any individual who falls under this code (whether accidentally or intentionally).

It potentially also creates precedent which could then be used to extend this restriction beyond the medical profession.

I hold real concerns that this change if it proceeds will result in loss of balance for those individuals bound by AHPRA.

I am even more concerned that this proposed change has received very little publicity and hence any suggestion that there has been adequate consultation lacks credibility.

If it follows that silence is taken to imply agreement, this is frankly not true, as it only implies there has been a lack of transparency or visibility in the consultation process.

I would request in strongest of terms that AHPRA actively publicise these proposed changes and seek advice from the Human Rights Commission given that all people are entitled to have their basic human rights upheld.

Sincerely

Tony Lafferty
