

To: Medical Board of Australia

Re: Draft revised Good medical practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia

I would like to express my opinions on your public consultation paper.

In your draft paper section 2.1, it states:

"If making public comment, you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views and indicate when your personal opinion differs.

"Behaviour which could undermine community trust in the profession is at odds with good medical practice and may be considered unprofessional."

This vague regulation will deter doctors to express their opinions because their opinions and their behavior may lead to a judgement of unprofessional, and unprofessional may lead to deregistration. This is a big threat to the members' rights of speech and rights of campaigning.

Are opinions on ethical issues like these related to the medical practice as a doctor?

For example, if they do not agree on same sex marriage, they oppose Safe School Program, they opposed euthanasia, they opposed transgender ideology, they opposed injection room, they opposed abortion.

These are the values held by each individual person, doctor is an individual and has the rights, as every individual person, to express their opinions. If that individual is not expressing a view that is illegal, why his/her view is suppressed with such regulation, as drafted in section 2.1. This implicit power held by the Board would be more than an autocratic government.

██████████ was campaigning against the Safe School Program in NSW in 2017, she was complained by a person to the AMA and was threatened to be deregistered on her professional qualification. Fortunately at that time there was not such a regulation as in the draft section 2.1, otherwise, would she be considered unprofessional and be deregistered?

On these type of ethical issues, did the professional body has a generally accepted view? If yes, how did that generally accepted view arrive? Was it gathered from all your members through a proper, fair and non-threatening channel? And in what way ██████████ standpoint against the Safe School Program affected her practice as a doctor? I could not see any relationship between the two.

Therefore, Medical Board of Australia, please take away this part in your draft revised code of conduct for your members.

Do the right things for the real benefits of your members and the patients, don't inject any political will in the governance.

Thank you very much.

Katoma Lash

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