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To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Good Medical Practice Code of Conduct
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I am truly alarmed to hear the report that that Dr David van Gend has had a complaint of “professional misconduct” made against him by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, for re-tweeting two tweets by Lyle Shelton about same-sex-marriage and gender ideology.

Bizarrely, he has been accused of “presenting as a medical practitioner and providing information that is ‘clearly not medically, psychologically, nor scientifically based’ and not promoting public health”, and of “behaviour which could undermine community trust in the profession ...”

So the “Good Medical Practice: a code of conduct for doctors in Australia” will no longer allow doctors the freedom to question, research, discuss, debate, or disagree with the current status quo in medicine? How can any further research, progress and development in the medical field be possible under such a dangerously stifling code of conduct? And how will any consumers of medical services be able to obtain ‘2nd opinions’, if doctors are no longer allowed to hold different opinions?

And why would anybody feel like donating money, or fund raising, for medical research in any field, with a ‘code of conduct’ that tries to shut down genuine research, and silence those who question the status quo?

As for “undermining community trust in the profession ...”, as a consumer of services provided by medical professionals, my trust in the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has just plummeted to zero. If this agency continues to silence doctors, it will become much more difficult for consumers to choose a doctor who has the approach to medical issues which suits them. They will begin to look at alternative forms of health care.

In this particular case, it appears to be the AHPRA which is providing information that is ‘clearly not medically, psychologically, nor scientifically based’ and not promoting public health. And which will “undermine community trust in the profession”. Transgenderism (Gender Dysphoria) is a very ideologically driven area of medicine. There is absolutely no scientific evidence to demonstrate that it is possible to change one’s gender. And the long term health outcomes for pre-pubescent children on puberty blockers and cross sex hormones are not known, and could be incredibly harmful for those children signed up to a life time of chemical treatment. The effect on brain development of such chemical treatment is not known.

Thankfully there are some doctors who believe in the freedom to express their beliefs.

Lucy Levett