

Thursday 2 August 2018

RE: 'Public consultation on *Good medical practice*'

To The Medical Board of Australia,

Thank you for this public consultation.

From my perspective the current Code of Conduct needs no changes. As it stands it is clear, thorough and well structured.

In my opinion the proposed draft revised code of conduct is not more workable than the current code.

For example, the Board's proposed changes for section 3.7 of the code, including retitling it to '*Culturally safe and sensitive practice*,' is unnecessary and potentially problematic. It is vital that to achieve good medical outcomes for patients, medical practitioners have to be free to challenge difficult problems and be able to challenge false medical beliefs and inappropriate treatments, and not be forced to accept 'cultural' beliefs and practices that are opposed to good medical practice.

In another example, the Board states its reason for the proposed revisions is to '*make explicit the standards of ethical and professional conduct expected of doctors by their professional peers and the community.*' The Medical Board of Australia must take care that it does not overstep its purview regarding professional ethics and professional conduct and seek to interfere with medical practitioners' personal ethics. Medical practitioners as human beings have fundamental human rights of freedoms of speech, ethics and conscience. Therefore they have the right to exercise said rights as individuals, in living their personal lives, as well as inside and outside the workplace and not to be discriminated against by anyone, neither by the 'community' nor by 'professional peers.'

Essential to the health and wellbeing of all Australians is the freedom of our medical practitioners to publicly debate the merits of medical treatments.

The existing Code of Conduct acts sufficiently as the standard for both professional conduct, professional ethics and the respect and care due to all patients however diverse and whatsoever their medical needs.

I reiterate my perspective that no changes are needed to the existing Code of Conduct.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maria [REDACTED]

PS – I request my surname and email address remain confidential. Thank you.