

**From:** Jessica Mifsud  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
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To whom it may concern,

I am aware that the Australian Medical Board has drafted a revised Code of Conduct. I am writing to let you know that this has raised many concerns for me and a lot of people. Putting medical practitioners' jobs on the line, labeling them as unprofessional and even deregistering them if they say something that's different from 'generally accepted views' is wrong. It's a direct attack on freedom of speech, which every Australian is supposed to be entitled to. I strongly believe that every opinion should be valued. So how come these medical practitioners are being targeted? Society can't progress without a variety of opinions being heard and respected, so we risk taking a step backward as a society. What the draft indicates regarding the comments medical practitioners make in public is also a very big concern. Medical practitioners are ordinary people like anyone else. Therefore they have just as much of a right to state their own opinions in public as much as any other person. It's obvious that this is a direct attack on their Freedom of Speech. What they say outside of their workplace shouldn't have to be policed by their code of conduct at work- that is, the Medical Board's Code of Conduct. They should be free to live their own lives and uphold their own opinions as much as anyone else. The Code of Conduct for any workplace doesn't apply for other people when they leave work, so why are they being treated differently and being targeted?

People can't lose their jobs purely based on their opinions. That would be unfair dismissal. So how come medical practitioners are being threatened with being deregistered from the Medical Board if their personal opinions differ from 'generally accepted views'? This is exactly the same issue.

People should be able to go to multiple Medical Practitioners to obtain a variety of opinions regarding their medical concerns. Why is the revised Code of Conduct trying to stop this? People also have a choice as to which Medical Practitioners they prefer. So having a variety of opinions is not only healthy and helpful, but also does no harm to no one.

Please be considerate of all our Medical Practitioners. Please ensure that the Revised Medical Code of Conduct doesn't violate their Basic Human Right to Freedom of Speech

Yours Sincerely  
Jessica Mifsud