

Dear Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency,

Below is my submission on the Medical Board of Australia's proposed new Code of Conduct for the medical profession.

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It is not surprising that philosophers are starting to call the current times "the post truth era", or "the post reality era". That is, that the spirit of the age is that facts, truth, and reason don't matter, but all that matters are what one feels, believes or wishes to believe. Perhaps "the age of pretence" might be an accurate description.

Examples often quoted, that many people believe to be instances of this, include that we are asked to pretend that marriage has nothing to do with gender, to pretend that boys can turn into girls and girls can turn into boys (despite the fact that gender is genetically hard-coded and cannot be changed), to pretend that gender dysphoria is normal, to pretend that homosexuality is not a psychiatric disorder, to pretend that abortion does not kill a baby, to pretend that smoking marijuana is not harmful, to pretend that all religions are "equal" (despite the fact that they define God, truth, reality, and the way to be reconciled to God, vastly differently from each other), and to pretend that human-induced global warming is an established fact (despite it being unproven, and scientific research finding no certainty of long-term climate shift, no link between atmospheric CO2 and temperature, and no significant increase in CO2 levels over time, and any climate change probably being caused by variations in solar thermal output as has historically been the case) - to name some alleged modern pretences.

Now, apparently, the medical profession is going to be asked to pretend that these and other "cultural" phenomena, such as sodomy, female genital mutilation, incorrect eating, transgender mutilation, unhealthy lifestyles, and many other practices, do not have any medical consequences, or that such beliefs or practices are medically OK if they have some sort of cultural basis, and that doctors are not going to be allowed to advise their patients against these things.

As almost anything can be construed as having a community, religious, ethnic, racial or personal cultural basis, this has the potential to drastically curtail physicians' ability to tell the truth and give accurate, objective medical advice.


It could also put doctors in a nonviable situation, where they could be disciplined by their medical association for telling the truth to patients about these "cultural" phenomena; but if they don't tell their patients the truth, they could potentially be sued by their patients or disciplined by their board for not giving correct or honest medical advice which they knew to be true.

One can speculate that this could be the undoing of consultative medical practice. It certainly has the potential to damage the reputation, effectiveness and confidence in the medical profession.

It is also a major attack on Freedom of Speech.

I would strongly suggest that this “politically correct” madness be abandoned before too much damage is done to doctors, patients, and the medical profession. The existing code of conduct should be left as it is.

Yours faithfully,
David A W Miller.

A series of black rectangular redaction marks covering the signature and contact information. The first row consists of three overlapping black boxes of varying lengths. The second row is a single, solid black horizontal bar.