

From: Carol Ann Norris
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Public consultation on good medical practice.
Date: Thursday, 16 August 2018 1:14:36 AM

Dear Committee

I write with concern about changes to the code of conduct and disagree that the proposal is insignificant.

The changes to the code limits freedom of speech. It is undemocratic that anyone with different thoughts from the majority, will not be allowed to express public opinion. Science has always allowed for differences to be argued and tested. Einstein famously said that if only one person disagrees with his theory, then he would accept it was wrong.

The new code would prevent doctors speaking out on issues that challenge their conscience. If AHPRA has opinions based on societal values; then those in the minority would be prevented from speaking out.

This would occur for issues such as the effects on children of same-sex parenting, the legalisation of marijuana, euthanasia, abortion and childhood gender dysphoria.

Furthermore the new wording in the code says that the profession's generally accepted views must be acknowledged. How would AHPRA know what is 'generally accepted views' when a vocal minority could bias the accepting of their viewpoint.

How would AHPRA not be influenced subjectively by the vocal minority?

It is not in the best interests of our community to have the medical profession speaking as only one voice. Democracy is about people being provided with the opportunity to be informed of all voices.

Furthermore who will be taking responsibility to judge other doctors and how will they make their judgements, determine the loss of community trust, evaluate the severity of a doctor's supposed breach of community trust and give appropriate the reprimand?

I am concerned that the medical profession is about to take on judgement responsibilities; punish doctors; prevent us in the community to form our own judgements; curtail free speech and interfere with science.

All science must be allowed to be questioned. The medical profession should be encouraging the process of science, not hindering it.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Carol Ann Norris.