

From: Faye Owen
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Proposed new clause regarding restrictions on a doctor's right to free speech
Date: Monday, 13 August 2018 2:33:21 PM

Dear AHPRA

I would like to express my deep concern at what appears to be AHPRA / Government intention to limit and hedge around a medical professional's right to speak of his beliefs or outlook by inserting a new clause restricting his right to do so.

In the last few years we have seen much restriction on personal rights, including the right to have free speech. Australia has, up to now, been very fortunate in having a very open approach to free speech. This has led to Australia becoming the country..."Land of Freedom"...which we love so well.

We now seem to be seeing our freedoms....particularly freedom of speech, which surely is and has been, a key value in our society...whittled away, bit by bit. I am, I must confess, horrified to see this happening.

Without original, unrestricted thought, we will end up in a moral, ethical and, may I say, practical, straight-jacket. It is from divergent opinion, exploratory thought and freedom to express and pursue any avenue of thought which looks promising,

that culture, medicine and advances in our lives, have come. We have only to look back at the last couple of hundred years to see how many wonderful changes...(yes, and some not so wonderful; that is to be expected in a free society. Most of these correct themselves in time, if people are free to speak)..... have come from a human mind which is unrestricted in being allowed to follow through its thinking. Whether we agree with a person's philosophy, ethics, morals or faith should not

cause us to restrict that person from expressing their ideas. This suggests that people whose thinking may be in the minority have no right to express that thought. Hitler's regime flourished in this atmosphere.

Such a restriction would smack of a restrictive dictatorship.

Let's not toss away all our cherished, hard earned freedoms by drawing lines in the sand which do nothing more than squeeze tight our right to free speech. I earnestly request that this motion be denied.

Keep Australia free.....PLEASE !

Yours sincerely Faye Owen