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To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Public consultation on Good medical practice
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Dear Medical Board of Australia

Thank you for this public consultation on proposed revisions to the Code of Conduct.

The proposed revisions are worrying, as they remove the rights of doctors, restricting both independent clinical decision-making and freedom of conscience for doctors. They propose that doctors cannot have a say about what is medically relevant or "medically irrelevant" in medical consultations. The proposal claims that gender ideology and sexual orientation, as well as other patient characteristics (point 3.4 in the draft proposal) are "medically irrelevant" in "decisions about access to medical care", and that only the patient and/or the patient's family can determine whether medical care is "culturally safe".

If changes were adopted, patients or families could preclude doctors from determining what is medically relevant to their care, on the grounds that they do not consider the care "culturally safe" (points 2.1 and 4.8 in the draft proposal). This would clearly be dangerous to good medical practice. For example, a patient and/or a patient's family could demand sex reassignment surgery, or any other medical procedures or treatments, regardless of medical risk, on the basis of cultural preferences. Any caution raised by the doctor on medical grounds could result in allegations by the patient or family that the doctor had breached the Medical Board Code of Conduct.

It would be dangerous to good medical practice if discussion about consent (for medical treatment and procedures) were to exclude what the doctor considers medically relevant. This would belie the term "good medical practice" and obstruct the medical professional's freedom to exercise sound clinical judgment.

The proposed changes should not be accepted as they are actually inconsistent with good medical practice.