

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: 'Public consultation on Good medical practice
Date: Wednesday, 15 August 2018 10:33:10 PM

Dear Sir/Madam

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Medical Board's code of conduct for doctors in Australia.

I have been a general practitioner for over 25 years in the northern suburbs of Adelaide .

I am broadly happy with the content of the draft code except for section 2.1 paragraph four in which there is an elaboration of the board's stance on doctors comments in the public domain.

I find this paragraph ambiguous and I believe open to potential abuse in the form of constraint of doctors' personal opinions and beliefs which may be at odds with societal norms at large but cohesive with alternative belief systems .

I understand this clause may be well intentioned to curb the public activities of certain practitioners who engage in pseudoscience or perhaps employ spurious interpretive techniques (I can see this perhaps addressing the anti vaccination lobby or radical home birth proponents).

However I am deeply concerned that practitioners who hold personal views based on either a spiritual paradigm or dissenting scientific point of view will be subject to discipline from the board on the basis of not complying with accepted medical practice.

This is a dangerous position and not workable in my mind as the board as arbiter is almost certainly going to be influenced by the prevailing cultural elite to the detriment of dissenters or proponents of an alternative world view. I can not see how political or religious freedom will not be curtailed by this change to the code . In a pluralistic society such as Australia I find the risk of this outcome frightening and sincerely request the removal or severe reworking of this clause to enshrine the right of every practitioner to hold and voice their opinion on any matter of personal import even if this is offensive to some

Yours sincerely

John Salagaras

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Sent from my iPhone