

SUBMISSION RE PUBLIC CONSULTATION DRAFT REVISION 2018

3 August 2018

I wish to submit my comments on the publication called ***Good Medical Practice: a code of conduct for doctors in Australia***.

I particularly want to make comment on the paragraph 2.1 (2018 code) which refers to community trust and comments on the boundary between a doctor's personal and public profile. I believe that the paragraph suggests potential risk to a doctor if he speaks his mind "in public," whatever that may be defined as.

Let me explain where my previous experiences contribute to my worries.

I am a medical graduate in Pharmacy and Medicine from Sydney University. I am the founder and principal of a large multi disciplinary general practice on the outskirts of Sydney. I am the chairman and founder of a registered charity, The African AIDS Foundation.

Before commencing work as a GP in Australia I was the medical superintendent of a mission hospital for Zulus in South Africa for nine years. During those nine years the hospital was taken over by the government and I became an employee of Pretoria.

The paragraph of interest (2.1) places great store on "generally accepted views" and I think would rely on "informers" to bring attention to those who would be deemed a risk.

The ambiguous and loose terms and the implied threat of deregistration would certainly inhibit many people from engaging in robust discussion on such subjects as abortion, euthanasia, cannabis use and sexual dysphoria.

It would in fact be a real attack on "Free Speech". I believe that in spite of being well intentioned, it would be destructive to good practice and I would ask that it be removed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

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