

**From:** Vic Smith  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Public consultation on Good medical practice  
**Date:** Friday, 3 August 2018 12:45:47 AM

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Dear Medical Board,

I am most concerned about some of the proposed changes to the "Good Medical Practice" code of conduct, notably in the area of Professionalism.

My main concern is paragraph 4 of Clause 2.1.

Implicit to this paragraph is a restriction on the freedom of speech and conscience of medical practitioners.

Any profession (scientific or otherwise) prospers and grows through the open exchange of ideas and experiences.

Hypothesis, examination, debate are all important for the advancement of medicine, as in any scientific profession.

The Medical Board here seems to be attempting to shut down such exchanges for the sake of "generally accepted views". Who dictates such views? A vocal minority?

And how is "community trust" evaluated? The community will trust a profession that is open and honest, willing to debate new ideas and to seek what is best for patients irrespective of their cultural heritage.

Cultural norms and good medical practice can often be opposed to one another.

By trying to restrict what doctors can say in their personal and professional lives, the community is likely to trust the medical profession less, not more.

Behaving ethically is emphasised, but restricting the freedom of conscience of doctors actually causes them to behave unethically i.e. against their beliefs.

Personal integrity must be at the forefront of good medical practice.

Paragraph 4 should be appropriately re-worded or removed.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr Vic Smith.



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