

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Submission to public consultation on good medical practice
Date: Tuesday, 14 August 2018 9:08:03 AM

Dear Medical Board of Australia,

I wish to make a submission to the board regarding the new proposed Code of Conduct for Doctors. In particular, I would like to point out the dangers inherent in section 4.8.1 where the meaning of 'culturally safe' is defined as being exclusively determined by a patient and his family.

Under this definition, it is impossible for any doctor to determine in advance what behaviour constitutes 'culturally safe' practice. Furthermore, this definition leaves all doctors open to vexatious complaints from any patient, whose accusation that the doctor breached culturally safe practice must always be upheld, by definition, on the basis of this section of the code.

This would put every doctor in Australia in a very precarious position because a doctor's adherence to the code and with it the threat of deregistration and loss of livelihood would be dependent only upon the propensity of that doctor's patients to complain and upon the Medical Board's choice of disciplinary action.

I urge the board strongly to take this danger into consideration and either remove this section or retain the current version of the code in its entirety instead.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Wallace

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