

From: Rev Nigel Webb
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Public consultation on Good medical practice
Date: Thursday, 2 August 2018 5:53:16 PM
Attachments: [Church-Logo-small-24.png](#)

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please do not change the Code of Conduct for doctors as per the draft code.

The proposed additions would negatively affect good medical outcomes for patients & society in general.

Specifically the requirement for doctors to be “culturally safe” and to be respectful of beliefs & cultures of others may constrain doctors from issuing sound medical advice where that advice contradicts the beliefs of others. For example female genital mutilation is viewed positively by some cultures but is harmful to females. Similar problems could arise for excess weight, dangerous drug & alcohol consumption and certain sexual practices - all of which can be acceptable to the beliefs of some individuals & cultures but harmful to the patient.

Society trusts doctors to give the best medical advice based on sound scientific evidence. This advice may conflict with all sorts of personal & cultural beliefs that people have - yet patients still need to hear good medical advice and doctors need to be able to dispense that advice without fear of complaint or persecution, fully supported by the Medical Board of Australia. This is also true regarding issues of gender identity, biological sex, sexual orientation, sexual practices and ethnicity - all these factors have a direct impact on medical outcomes for patients. Despite some parts of society changing their ideas on gender identity, it would not be good for doctors to be constrained from giving the best medical advice in order to appease some cultural sensitivities or perceived discrimination e.g. treating a biologically male patient as biologically female because the patient has body dysmorphia, thinking they're female.

Please leave the current Cod of Conduct as is best for patients, doctors & society.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Nigel Webb

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