

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Submission to the public consultation on good medical practice
Date: Friday, 17 August 2018 2:41:24 PM

Dear Medical Board of Australia,

I would like to draw your attention to the very problematic part of the proposed Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia which deals with 'medically irrelevant grounds' in section 3.4.3.

This section states that, "Good medical practice involves: Upholding your duty to your patient and not discriminating on medically irrelevant grounds, including race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or other grounds, as described in anti-discrimination legislation." But these grounds are sometimes highly medically relevant for assessing the risk factors affecting the patient and most certainly should be taken into account when determining the advice and treatment offered.

For instance, a homosexual man is at much higher risk than the general population of contracting various STDs and his doctor would be highly remiss for not 'discriminating' in this case and offering advice which would be inappropriate for other groups. Similarly, certain races are more prone to particular diseases and it would also be quite necessary and proper for a doctor to take this into account when recommending testing and giving advice.

For these reasons, I believe that this section needs to be re-written to make clear that the aforementioned grounds are sometimes highly medically relevant and most definitely should be used by doctors to provide different models of care to different groups.

Yours faithfully,

Pauline Heskes

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