

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the public consultation on good medical practice  
**Date:** Saturday, 11 August 2018 11:59:39 AM

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Dear Medical Board of Australia,

I am very disappointed in some of the proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia. Despite the Board's assurances that they are not proposing significant changes, the consequences will be profound.

For example, section 3.4.3 implicitly defines race, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation and disability as medically irrelevant and proscribes 'discrimination' on such grounds. But clearly each of these factors can be extremely relevant for delivering optimal medical care to patients. A good doctor, for example, should 'discriminate' by giving different advice to a woman who is more at risk of breast cancer, than to a homosexual man who is more at risk of contracting HIV, or to someone confused about gender identity and who is at risk of underlying mental health issues.

The wording of this section definitely needs changing to make clear that these factors are medically relevant in some cases and that no breach of the Code would arise simply by a doctor offering different medical care options and advice to such different groups.

Yours sincerely,

Rev James Houston OAM

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