

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Submission to the public consultation on good medical practice
Date: Saturday, 11 August 2018 5:33:25 PM

Dear Medical Board of Australia,

Section 4.8.2 of the proposed Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia makes it a requirement for doctors to 'respect diverse gender identities and sexualities.' But this could easily be construed to mean that respect trumps medical facts.

For instance, it is well known that homosexuality is associated with a higher prevalence of certain sexually transmitted diseases and other psychological ailments. So, does this mean that a doctor must deny these facts to show 'respect' instead of acting upon them to give his patient the best medical care and advice?

Similarly, is a doctor required to pander to a delusional patient suffering from gender identity disorder to show 'respect' when he knows that there are a range of negative psychological and physical health outcomes which are likely to arise from confirming a patient's delusion rather than confronting it? Indeed, a doctor in the UK was recently fired from a government position that effectively ended his career in just such a case for refusing to use transgender pronouns:

<https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/at-work/god-made-us-male-and-female-doctor-sacked-for-saying-people-cannot-choose-their-gender/news-story/5c428000dd8b92e5153fb346559a4be4>

We hope the Board does not want to foster amongst doctors here in Australia a similar climate of fear of speaking out and fear of applying their medical knowledge in the best interests of their patients. If not, then we urge you to recommend not implementing the new proposed code and to instead retain the current one.

Yours faithfully,

Hank and Ruth van den Berghe

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