

3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2018.

The Secretary,

The Medical Consultation Board,

Australia.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: 'Public consultation on Good medical practice'

I do not wish to see the present 'code' changed or amended. Although changes are small and result in more effective wording, I feel it will be more prescriptive and not result in better care of the unwell.

The natural state of the human body is to be well. When the body is unable to regain this state of wellness then medical practise should assist it to return to that state of wellness. All medicines are poisonous to the body and should merely be administered to assist the body to achieve again that state of wellness. This according to my understanding is the gist of ancient Greek philosophy as taught and practised Galen, Aesculapius, Hippocrates and others. The Judaic/Christian, though with reference to a different God, follows along the same path.

The present Australian code of medical ethics does so too in asserting that doctors should care for people who are unwell and also to keep people well. The words, 'ethical, trustworthy, integrity, truthfulness, dependability, community trust are used in this connection.

The 'code' directly negates this when it demands of a doctor to comply with practices contrary to his/her Judaic/Christian ethic. He/She should be protected rather, against demands and accusations of patients (and colleagues) who do not hold to such ethics. The topics of sanctity of life from conception (abortion), family relationships (marital fidelity), destructive lifestyle (gambling, drugs, alcohol), healthy dietary regimes appropriate to the particular medical condition resort in this area.

A recent example of this is the way in which Dr. Gary Fettke is being hounded. Surely his knowledge of physiology and pharmacology and his practical experience demonstrate his suitability to care for his patients in the way he does.

In 1982 Drs. Barry Marshall and Robin Warren were ridiculed as 'upstarts pushing an hypothesis that had no credibility.' They are now recipients of the Nobel Prize. It was the drug companies protecting their profits and an arrogant tight knit bigoted professional community protecting its prejudices, who were not caring for the unwell.

I would also like to see 'the code' strongly advising medical practitioners (and bodies) against accepting any favours of any kind, monetary, gifts, favours etc. from the so-called 'ethical' companies.

I trust the code will remain as it is at present.

Thank you for granting me this opportunity to briefly express myself in this regard.

Sincerely,

Garry van der Tang, [REDACTED]