

## **Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency,**

Dear people,

It is difficult to know how to address a corporate body insofar as with the political correctness and sensitivities I am unable to write "Dear Sirs/Madams" or any other connotation for fear of offending.

The reason for my writing is deep concern over pending revision of the "*Good medical practice: A code of conduct for Doctors in Australia*"

A 'code' by my education is a guide not a regulation, however the revised wording actually makes it a 'rule' not a guide, insofar as you shall ..... and there are proposed penalties for not following the supposed 'guide'.

Apparently changes to the wording of the code mean that doctors could be deregistered for expressing personal opinions. The proposed revision says:

*"The boundary between a doctor's personal and public profile can be blurred. As a doctor, you need to acknowledge and consider the effect of your comments and actions outside work, including online...If making public comment, you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views and indicate when your personal opinion differs. Behaviour which could undermine community trust in the profession is at odds with good medical practice and may be considered unprofessional"*.

I have never ever met a doctor who did not already espouse or follow this behaviour, if I did I would change doctors.

This proposed draconian change to the code seeks to silence any dissent to the view expressed by AHPRA. It threatens the livelihoods of doctors who do not subscribe. This 'change' seems to make it mandatory that he/she/it is unable to express their honest opinion. Which flies in the face of the mantra of Health Professionals who frequently direct that if you are unhappy then go and get a 'second opinion'.

If a doctor causes an offence to a patient be it by incompetent treatment, poor diagnosis, refusing to apply the patient's treatment or telling her that her medical procedures on her daughter to comply with Muslim dictates is not acceptable or that she should resist advice to have her son's gender reassigned, or that getting a tattoo is not good or avoiding further contact with Hindus owing to her poor mental state; if this causes an offence with the patient then is the Doctor wrong; but more so because it MAY not in accord with the guidances held by AHPRA then the Doctor can be deregistered because he has caused an offence? Not that the offence was warranted or wrong but because the person on the other side of the table and a board of detached non practicing medico's has deemed it so, therefore it is. The Doctor is being judged on very word from his mouth, out of context and frequently by a loopy.

Should not the offended party of their own volition go and seek another Doctor who agrees with their views; assuming of course that AHPRA agrees with the freedom to choose another doctor?

Or is it the held believe that the patient is always right should never be offended and the Doctor must be penalised if the patient takes offence, in the view of APRHA, this is nont inhumane but 'un-human'.?

*"If making public comment, you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views and indicate when your personal opinion differs. Behaviour which could undermine community trust in the profession is at odds with good medical practice and may be considered unprofessional".*

The above statement is double speak for you should not express any opinion which may differ from the view of a small group of jaded, self interested leftists. Who advocating freedom of speech and thought and respect for others, want to control how we think and speak and act.

Medico's opinions have frequently throughout society been at odds with the establishment. Without medicos having a differing view, many if not all of advances in medical science would not have occurred. So called 'professionals' non acceptant of the status quo but finding better and often different opinions/views on how treatment should done or seemingly incurable diseases can be treated. Just consider the foolishness of the Limes Disease fiasco, people suffering from Limes disease denied treatment because Doctors advocates say it is not recognised in Australia.

I do not like MacDonald's burgers, I prefer to fly in plane with a caucasian pilot, I do not go to anyone whom I think is a Muslim, I will not visit a surgery where alternative ungodly medicine is offered; I will not go to African doctors, I prefer women doctors to male in most cases, I attend a Doctor whose views I agree with. I do not go to a Doctor if he/she has contrary views to mine because I visit a doctor for a whole lot of reasons some medical, some emotional, some mental and I want their honest opinion as much as it can be honest as it is already tainted by the fact that they charge lots of money to fulfil a vocation that I have helped pay for with my taxes; but I surely do not want a doctor who's views are stifled by a parent organisation that is only concerned with their well being because it may offend me. Medicine os an offensive profession people have the right to sue if they are offended.

Leave the wording alone, leave doctors opinions alone as will patients who disagree with that opinion.

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