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CONSULTATION REGARDING THE DRAFT REVISED GOOD MEDICAL PRACTICE DOCUMENT

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Jade Schroers and I am a nephrology advanced trainee at Liverpool Hospital.

The proposed changes to the Code of Conduct for doctors in Australia was only recently brought to my attention by a colleague. I am concerned that the duration of the consultation process is inadequate.

I have many concerns regarding several points in the Code of Conduct but unfortunately due to time constraints will only address 2.1 which states “Professional values and qualities of doctors ‘(Doctors) must be honest, ethical and trustworthy and comply with relevant laws’.” While I agree with the qualities of honesty, and being ethical and trustworthy, the phrase ‘comply with relevant laws’ is troubling. I fear that it would impinge upon a doctor’s freedom to conscientiously object, if they believed a particular practice was inconsistent with best medical practice. I feel that the Medical Board should include a statement to recognise and support doctors in their basic right to conscientiously object.

Kind regards,

Dr Jade Schroers