Dear AHPRA,

I am objecting to the proposed code of conduct.

I feel it is intolerant to individual beliefs and restricts free speech.

My actions and comments outside of work should not result in a doctor losing their right to practice or even come under scrutiny from the medical board!

Section 2.1 of the code warns doctors, "you need to acknowledge and consider the effect of your comments and actions outside work, including online, on your professional standing... you should acknowledge the profession's generally accepted views... when your personal opinion differs"

If the Code of Conduct is changed, this would stifle free speech and debate. The threat of deregistration would silence dissenting doctors who speak out — or even retweet — on debatable topics.

According to the Code of Conduct (1.2), "serious or repeated failure" to meet its standards may result in a doctor losing their right to practise medicine.

The code of conduct 2009 should not be changed.

Dr David Taylor