

**From:** Tony Sasse  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Public Consultation on Good Medical Practice  
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Dear APHRA,

I wish to submit that good medical practice may well disagree with the consensus of the authorities at the time, including APHRA.

Numerous historical examples exist to validate this perspective. Perhaps the most obvious is Dr Semmelweis who discovered hand-washing saved lives. He was persecuted for his discovery by the authorities of the day. In science Galileo was tried by the ruling authorities for his apparently wrong opinion.

Doctors must be free to disagree politely with policies, guidelines, rulings and policies of AHPRA, the Health Department, any Public Hospital and the Government or any other body.

Examples might include the handling of refugee health and re-settlement policies, nuclear policy (Dr H Caldicott is a famous anti-nuclear advocate), smoking policy and any other issue that might be controversial or still embryonic such as Lyme disease. Government policy can change from election to election and are notoriously fickle. Scientific discoveries can occur at any time that up-end "conventional" thinking.

Under the state in the USSR doctors were required to treat religious views as a mental illness, another obvious example of foolishness by controlling bodies.

So, it should never be a crime to disagree politely with any policy, as the only alternative is to end up persecuting doctors for their beliefs and opinions, right or wrong.

Kind regards,

Adj/ Prof Anthony Sasse. FRACP.