

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Doctors Code of Conduct
Date: Friday, 3 August 2018 2:48:57 PM

Dear Medical Board,

My husband and I are both concerned about the proposed changes to the Doctor's Code of Conduct and the ramifications it may have on our GPs.

We are concerned with the possible interpretation of 'culturally safe', that it should not impact on good health outcomes and good medical practice.

We are concerned that 'respectful practice' is significantly different to 'respectful of the beliefs and cultures of others' and that this change also could impact on good health outcomes.

Respect for a patient does not equal respecting 'cultural beliefs and practices' that may be antithetical to good medical practice.

We hope that the language of the 2009 Code of Conduct remains unchanged in the new version: "'Culturally safe' does not necessarily equate to medically safe ... 'Respecting' can be taken to mean agreeing with, affirming, and accepting that we cannot challenge false medical belief and inappropriate treatment."

To actually achieve good medical outcomes for patients, doctors have to be free to challenge difficult problems that patients might seek to avoid, such as excess weight, excess alcohol, dangers of sexual behaviours – at the very least to tell medical truth.

Please consider our doctors and their professional opinions and don't make these changes that could force them to deny their professional understanding of a medical issue and deny their moral convictions and virtually give in to every whim of the patient who may, or may not, have a healthy desire. This would cause our doctors untold grief.

Please don't do this.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn & Wayne McCarthy

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