

From: Michael Ataalla
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Submission re public consultation draft revision 2018
Date: Saturday, 28 July 2018 10:11:35 PM

To Whom It May Concern,
Dear Sir/Madam,

As a consumer and sometimes a patient I have concerns regarding the proposed changes to the ' Good Medical Practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia' by addition of the following paragraph:

2.1 (2018 Code) with insertion of paragraph 4

Community trust in the medical profession is essential. Every doctor has a responsibility to behave ethically to justify this trust. 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, on your professional standing and on the reputation of the profession. 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 the following concerns:

- Firstly I believe that 'general accepted views' within a profession which are not clinical related should not be forced upon individual doctors who may differ, e.g. because of a religious beliefs or otherwise.
- How does AHPRA evaluate what is 'community trust'. Infact silencing the minority reduces public confidence and trust in the medical profession
- I think the public are intelligent enough to know when a doctor is expressing his/her own views (the public do not need thought protection and infact can interpret this as derogatory) and would prefer to obtain unbiased doctor advice which have not been limited by any **threat to free speech**, as in the paragraph below. A medical professional should be free to discuss all possible ideas, after all discussing all possible ideas is the basis for science, especially medical science.
- I am also concerned that I happen to hear about the changes above to the code of conduct by chance, why aren't the majority of the public aware of this change if it can negatively affect the public. I believe the public should have been notified with alot of notice so they can also voice their opinion.
- If some doctors had spoken out more boldly, the practice of frontal lobotomy which was inflicted on tens of thousands of mentally disturbed patients with the approval of major medical institutions may have been curtailed

As a patient and member of the public I do not support this latest change to the medical profession's code of conduct.

Regards,

Michael

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