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To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: please omit address details of previous submission and consider the following submission
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To whom it may concern

In reference to the drafted document 'Good Medical Practice; a code of conduct for doctors in Australia', please remove paragraph 4, pg 7

“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.”

The possibility of doctors being required to account for expressing their personal views as stipulated in the proposed code is creating an atmosphere of unrest within the medical profession and community in general due to the gravity and pervasiveness of the likely consequences, particularly in terms of freedom of speech. Doctors are in a powerful position to influence and guide the community and restrictions on their ability to express diverse opinions can lead to unbalanced community standards and expectations. There have been calls particularly from conservatives for submissions from individuals from all social and professional backgrounds. I am a catholic mother of six children between the ages of 1 and 13 and felt strongly compelled to write this submission despite obvious time constraints. I regret was I unable to give due time to this submission.

There been a large amount of literature circulating the internet warning of the ramifications of this new code. Conservatives including a vast number of doctors have felt compelled to speak out regarding serious issues such as gender ideology, abortion and euthanasia. Conservative groups have encouraged submissions from individuals from all social and professional backgrounds due to the gravity and pervasiveness of the repercussions involved. I would like to discuss some the issues surrounding gender ideology and abortion that are rapidly evolving and focus on some of the consequences.

I view the proposed code of conduct as a subtle yet dangerous mechanism for encroachment on freedom of speech that extends beyond the medical establishment. Medical opinions, professional careers and personal lives are being stifled or interfered with as the conduct of professionals is increasingly regulated to an unacceptably restrictive level. Self -interested and powerful minorities are manipulating and sabotaging tried and tested community values and behaviours and their influence in the medical community is increasingly apparent. Opinions that are facing challenge in the medical profession have had broad support and utility within the community over vast periods of time and continue to demonstrate their relevance today.

Certain attitudes and medical practices are gaining wider acceptance within the profession despite a lack of rigorous study and a distortion on existing information by activist groups who now permeate multiple professional and bureaucratic domains. Trans-activists have often used aggressive tactics, often involving deceit or violence to achieve their aims without concern for the broader consequences of their actions. Transactivists have sought to increase support for LGBT community by advocating unproven gender theory to children and are effectively recruiting more members at exponential rates. Many children have been set on a trajectory towards homosexuality and sex-change through education programs such as Safe Schools that suggest that difficulties during normal psycho-sexual development relate to the theoretical idea that their gender identity is not consistent with their biology. Despite evidence that the vast majority of individuals come to accept their biological identity by adulthood within the traditional environment, children are increasingly indoctrinated with untested gender-fluid theory. A multitude of professionals are duly concerned and feel a responsibility to rectify unproven ideas in the community.

There is existing information showing negative outcomes associated transsexuality, including vastly higher rates of suicide . Doctors are acutely aware of these outcomes and do not support actively advocating high risk life-styles to children. A 1973-2003 Swedish study has found that suicide rates in transgender individuals are 19 times higher than in the general population after surgery. The likelihood of surgery being a causal factor in this scenario cannot be excluded without further rigorous study. Medical professions are naturally extremely reluctant to support the notion that removal of healthy breast tissue in fourteen year-old biological females is good medical practice. The stifling of our medical profession may prevent future examination of such a hypothesis as certain views fall out of favour through manipulation of ideas in the community.

Australia has thrived in an atmosphere of diversity of opinion and constructive debate amongst groups with different or opposing views however the progressive gagging of our medical profession is an obvious threat to these privileges. Major advancements in medicine have been made through the examination and testing of unpopular theories. There are dismal prospects for our nation its own medical profession loses the capacity to examine issues broadly and objectively while leaving potential for unintended consequences. The following example is pertinent since there are early indicators that our young nation is setting itself up for a repeat of the mistakes of previous periods.

During the 1840's, Viennese physician Philipp Semmelweis' discovered the connection between handwashing and the prevention of disease and death in new mothers in a Viennese hospital. His unfortunate character flaws and lack of popularity were seen as the lens to judge the value of his discovery. Philipp' unjust commission to a mental asylum and subsequent death was viewed as the solution to an unpopular and inconvenient truth, a truth which challenged ingrained standards and practice of the medical establishment of that time.

If doctors face disciplinary action for expressing personal views there is impetus to discourage particular groups of doctors from continuing to practice due to deeply held convictions. Many doctors take seriously their oath based on the Declaration of Geneva which in closing states:

'I will maintain the utmost respect for human life; even under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.'

Abortion is a particularly contentious issue since it involves the destruction of a human life at its earliest stages and has been linked to physical injury and life-long psychological trauma in the mother. Conservative doctors regard the mother and unborn baby as worthy of the greatest of protections and offer compassionate and supportive care and referral without resorting to abortion and its reprehensible effects. They do not view the rights of mother and baby as oppositional to one another but see each person as separate and interdependent and requiring assistance providing the best possible outcome for both mother and child. Conservative doctors see multiple successes in providing such support.

Many doctors will not and cannot comply with the expectations due to deeply held personal, moral and religious convictions. Many see such actions as assisting in the abortion process and contrary to the well being of both mother and child. Only in an unjust society would doctors be expected to go against their convictions and cause actual harm to their patients. Activists ignore the fact that much harm is created through abortion and would have us believe that there are no long-term effects on the mother and that a human child is not dismembered in their mother's womb.

I believe it is essential to maintain diversity of opinion and thought within the community and request that paragraph 4, page 7 of '*Good Medical Practice; a code of conduct for Doctors in Australia*' be completely removed as they are an affront to diversity of freedom of thought in Australia

Sincerely,

Mary Manche
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