



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
ABN 37 008 426 793

T | 61 2 6270 5400
F | 61 2 6270 5499
E | info@ama.com.au
W | www.ama.com.au

42 Macquarie St Barton ACT 2600
PO Box 6090 Kingston ACT 2604

12/40

Dr Joanne Katsoris
Executive Officer
Medical Board of Australia
PO Box 9958
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Dr Katsoris

Consultation – Cosmetic medical and surgical procedures

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft supplementary guidelines on cosmetic medical and surgical procedures for *Good Medical Practice: A code of conduct for doctors in Australia*.

The AMA recognises the purpose of these guidelines is to provide additional standards expected of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures, which is essentially discretionary surgery. That being said, the AMA does not consider it necessary to outline the principles that are already covered under existing codes of conduct, ethical and other guidelines and standards for medical practitioners.

The AMA agrees with the tenet of the proposed guidelines. Indeed much of the guidance, such as informed written consent and discharging patients, would apply equally to other medical specialties and not just medical practitioners who provide cosmetic surgery. The AMA is not keen to see a precedent set whereby specific and separate supplementary guidelines are developed for a number of medical disciplines.

In respect of financial schemes, many medical practitioners offer payment terms to patients, which assists them to access medical care. Therefore it is not unreasonable for cosmetic surgeons to offer payment terms in the same way.

The AMA considers there are three specific areas that are germane to cosmetic surgery which lend themselves to supplementary guidelines for cosmetic surgery:

- Where the patient may have self-esteem or mental health problems, the patient is referred to an appropriately qualified health professional for assessment;
- A cooling-off period between the initial consultation and day of the procedure;
and
- Financial inducements to agents to recruit patients.

D12/2376

A short statement by the Board that these issues are unique to discretionary cosmetic surgery and will be taken into account when considering professional conduct might have the intended effect without setting a precedent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hambleton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Steve Hambleton
President

22 May 2012