

From: Clarissa Nah
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Public consultation on Good Medical Practice
Date: Saturday, 4 August 2018 1:57:59 AM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with some concerns regarding the proposed draft of the revised code of conduct.

As doctor who has been previously registered in Victoria (as a graduate of Melbourne University) although I currently practise overseas, I fully support having a code of conduct mandating the responsibility for doctors to act ethically and professionally.

However, the statement in section 2.1:

"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**" seems to me to be unnecessary for inclusion in the code of conduct.

1) Regarding "Profession's generally accepted views"

Does this relate to good medical practice (which should be the main focus of the Code of Conduct), or are we talking about non-medical views (ie. sociocultural issues, gender or religious issues)?

What kind of views does this refer to? Medical or sociocultural views?

This is very vaguely worded and has potential to become a major loophole leading to a breeding ground for much future conflict and controversial action, particularly if disciplinary action is upheld against those who choose to share "contrary" viewpoints on controversial issues (e.g. euthanasia, gender issues).

Medical practice (which is our direct one - to - one therapeutic relationship which our patients, in terms of clinical decisions and follow up) - should not be confused with other sociocultural issues.

Understandably, contentious issues of euthanasia and abortion are linked with medicine, however, I personally feel we should not venture too far into the murky waters of mixing medicine too much with sociopolitical events.

2) "Behaviour which could undermine community trust in the profession is at odds with good medical practice"

The implication of above statement seems to be that, if a doctor chooses to express an opinion that is not a "generally accepted view" (which is not even clearly defined), he is "behaving at odds with good medical practice".

It is healthy to have open discussion, without fear of prosecution for having an 'alternative view point'. I fear that silencing alternative viewpoints will lead to a culture of gagging individual opinions.

Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Regards,

Dr Clarissa Nah Huiying