

From: [REDACTED]
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Submission to the public consultation on good medical practice
Date: Thursday, 16 August 2018 4:21:31 PM

Dear Medical Board of Australia,

I am concerned that the new proposed Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia adds gender identity and sexual orientation to a list of 'medically irrelevant grounds' concerning which doctors may not 'discriminate'.

However, a patient's 'gender identity' is relevant in many ways to the provision of good medical care because possible therapeutic interventions, both medical and surgical, come with life-long consequences which patients should be warned against. Likewise, sexual orientation is also medically relevant because therapeutic treatments exist with regard to ameliorating the effects of risky past sexual practices and preventative measures such as abstinence can be recommended for the future.

I therefore urge the Board to make changes to this section, either eliminating it or making it clear that doctors may and should base their patients' care on grounds such as gender identity and sexual orientation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Reiffel

[REDACTED]