

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [medboardconsultation](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to the public consultation on good medical practice  
**Date:** Tuesday, 14 August 2018 8:44:36 PM

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Dear Medical Board of Australia,

We wish to make a submission to the board regarding the new proposed Code of Conduct for Doctors. In particular, we would like to point out the dangers inherent in section 4.8.1 where the meaning of 'culturally safe' is defined as being exclusively determined by a patient and his family.

But this definition means that it is impossible for any doctor to determine in advance what behaviour constitutes 'culturally safe' practice. Furthermore, this definition leaves all doctors open to vexatious complaints from any patient, whose accusation that he breached culturally safe practice must always be upheld, by definition, on the basis of this section of the code.

This would put every doctor in Australia in a very precarious position because his adherence to the code and with it the threat of deregistration and loss of his livelihood would be dependent only upon the propensity of his patients to complain and upon the Medical Board's choice of disciplinary action.

Please take this danger into consideration and either remove this section or retain the current version of the code in its entirety instead.

Yours faithfully,

Frank and Maureen Horwill

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