



Health Professionals Say No!

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To The Medical Board of Australia

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018

**Re: Draft Revised Good Medical Practice (GMP). A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia. Public Consultation Paper.**

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the suggested changes to the Good Medical Practice Code of Conduct in this draft consultation paper, which we note is for public consultation.

We are a group of health professionals and those who work in healthcare who are concerned by societal agendas that have potential effects on healthcare provision, and which impact on vulnerable populations and the understanding of best practice approach in the area of end of life care. We believe in advocacy for these populations and also believe that societal agendas alone do not drive what constitutes good or ethical health care provision nor may justify healthcare agency. We invite you to visit our website and consider its content with the comments we send in our submission.

We have created a website for the purpose of providing an informed voice based on sound evidence and to assist others seeking more information or assistance in also voicing their concerns. We also provide opportunity for considered opinion and comment, as well as a vehicle for actions. Our signatories include leaders in the fields of end of life care, specialist medical and surgical practice, general practice and medical ethics.

This submission, on behalf of the signatories of our website, expresses major concerns with some of the suggested changes and wording of the GMP Code of Conduct. In particular we are concerned with clauses and wording relating to what may be considered unprofessional behaviour in the online and public arena, and the effects on public advocacy, the right to free speech and conscientious objection, and effects on healthcare delivery these may create.

The attached document outlines more specifically a reflection on individual clauses within the draft document.

Yours sincerely

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**On behalf of the Signatories of Health Professionals Say No!**