

The Medical Board of Australia Threat to Integrative Medicine

The Medical Board of Australia (MBA) was established to ensure that doctors practice safely and ethically, and has well-established good practice guidelines to achieve this. If doctors do not follow those guidelines, they risk sanctions and deregistration. All doctors. No exceptions.

But Medicine is always moving forward. There are gaps in our current Medicare system, where the focus is on brief consultations for the treatment of symptoms and diseases. Millions of Australians want more from their doctors. They want to go deeper in areas such as complex illness management, nutrition, and their ability to harness lifestyle and diet to prevent illness. Some want to make safe choices beyond prescription medications for sustainable and effective healthcare.

Thousands of Australian doctors have undergone additional education to become Integrative Medicine doctors. They typically embrace prevention as a first principle of healthcare, provide longer and deeper consultations to understand causes of illness, and are trained in safe and sustainable modalities to expand their medical training.

New regulations proposed by the MBA would segregate Integrative Medicine doctors. This is a first step that threatens the existence of Integrative Medicine in Australia and sets the stage for oppressive and unwarranted restrictions on these doctors in the care of their patients. Not because Integrative Medicine is unsafe, but simply because it is not “conventional”.

If these regulations are passed unchanged, your access to Integrative Medicine doctors may be lost or massively restricted. A million Australian families could lose access to the doctors of their choice.

Integrative Medicine has been dragged into the proposed MBA regulations without any justification or evidence of harm. Simply because the MBA sees it as not “conventional”.

Let the Medical Board of Australia know what you think. Choose “option one” (do not introduce new regulations) and tell them why they should leave your doctors to practise as they already do. Oppose the introduction of regulations that could destroy Integrative Medicine and remove your choice of your own doctor.

Find out more at www.integrativemedicinefreedomofchoice.com.

Respond to the MBA at www.medicalboard.gov.au, and search for “complementary medicine”. **The closing date for feedback is 12 May, 2019.**