

Medical Board Consultation

To: medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

Cc: 'Sandra'

Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 10:03 AM

Subject: Consultation Good Medicine Practice

To:

Dr. Joanna Flynn,
Prof. Belinda Bennett
Dr. Stephen Bradshaw,
MS. Prudence Ford,
Dr. Fiona Joske,
Dr. Charles Kilburn,
Mr. Paul Laris,
Mr. Robert Little,
Dr. Rakish Mohindra,
Prof. Peter Procopis,
Adjunct Prof. Peter Wallace.

MEDICAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA

20TH September, 2013.

LETTER OF COMPLAINT

Re: Medical Professionals are looking more like Quacks and the medical profession Quackery.

We wish to bring to your attention that the public in general is losing trust through the actions of some of your registered medical professionals.

The community places a great deal of trust in doctors and the wider medical profession and this is why their integrity is considered sacrosanct and held with the highest esteem. Patients rely on the independence and trustworthiness of doctors for any advice or treatment offered which is why the many voices being heard via the social media, newspaper articles and radio and TV interviews Australia.

Over the past few years many medical professionals have become involved in endorsing therapeutic treatments to the general public through all mediums of the media. This is seen as unprofessional and unethical to the general public. These professionals are breaching ethical policy and conducting medical trespass.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) include fluorides used for water fluoridation under the TGA Act 1989, therapeutic goods (excluded goods) Order No.1 of 2011 Section 5 Item 10. "Substances for use in the purification of treatment of drinking water if no claims are made for therapeutic use" It has been the TGA's intention to regulate the above substances that made a therapeutic claim since 2002 (refer to FOI document 156-1213-19 released on 18th April, 2013 at <http://www.tga.gov.au/about/foi-documents-released-2012-2013.htm>

Any therapeutic claims (eg. For the prevention of tooth decay) and any other such advertising claiming a therapeutic use (see definition below) **are not permitted** under the therapeutic goods advertising code 2007.

"Therapeutic use is defined in the TGA 1989 as meaning use in or in connection with:

- a) preventing, diagnosing, curing or alleviating a disease, ailment, defect or injury in persons or animals; or**
- b) influencing ,inhibiting or modifying a physiological process in persons or animals."**

Professional behaviour - Professional boundaries:

"In professional life, doctors must display a standard of behaviour that warrants the trust and the respect of the community. This includes observing and practising the principles of ethical conduct.

2 Providing good care.

2.1.1 Assessing the patient, taking into account the history, the patient's views and an appropriate physical examination. The history includes relevant psychological, social and cultural aspects.

3.5 Informed consent. "Informed consent is a person's voluntary decision about medical care that is made with knowledge and understanding of the benefits and the risks involved....."

3.5.1 Providing information to patients in a way that they can understand before **asking for their consent**.

3.5.2 **Obtaining of informed consent or other valid authority before you undertake any examination, investigation or provide treatment....."**

8.6 Advertising

8.6.3 Not guaranteeing cures exploiting patient's vulnerability or **fears** about their future health **or raising unrealistic expectation**.

Eg. Dr Michael Vagg is using fear, raising unrealistic expectation to the therapeutic treatment he is promoting because in Tasmania this treatment has been in force since 1953 and dental decay rates are the highest in Australia therefore this therapeutic treatment is not a cure for dental decay as Dr. Vagg claims in his article and blog.

COMMUNITY OBSERVATIONS:

1.Scaremongering and name calling

Michael Vagg, Clinical Senior Lecturer at Deakin University School of Medicine and Pain Specialist at Barwon Health is using fear tactics and name calling on the internet to promote the therapeutic treatment of "artificial water fluoridation". **See attachment**.

2.Medical Malpractice: Using internet and other advertising media to promote therapeutic treatment to the public. Making a claim for therapeutic treatment stating no risk involved when he has not seen nor examined nor conducted any blood, tissue or urine samples to back up his "scientific" claims. **He has not taken a patient's history**, but is prescribing a therapeutic treatment via the media, bringing his profession into total disrepute by not observing ethical codes of conduct. He is engaging in further commentary on the internet blog randomly, showing further his unprofessionalism which is bringing in other professionals, (doctors, Dr. Sue leraci, nurses ,dentists, etc). **Do they not have patient's to attend to or other duties**. Are they being paid to conduct this type of advertising on the internet as it would appear their comment is not kept to this one blog.

Media Release with community response to Karin Alexander, Federal President, Australian Dental Association. See attachment

We would like to point out that this is not a witch hunt being carried out personally on these people who are mentioned, as we could elaborate and come up with many more instances where this has been applied eg. Catalyst – Dr. Michael Foley & Prof. M. Moore. We are concerned that this unprofessional behaviour takes us back 75 years when doctors were endorsing cigarette smoking improves digestion "it's smart to have Camels on the table."

As you can see **this turns the medical profession into quackery** as the general public starts to lose trust in the conflicting medical opinions expressed by professionals.

We invite the medical profession to turn back to grassroots bedside manner where the individual patient is treated by his doctor and not generalised in the media.

If this kind of unprofessional behaviour continues you will see many patients turning away from their doctors and looking for alternative treatment for their medical problems. Doctors, Dentists, nurses and the extended medical community need to concentrate on doing their job treating their patients and stop making public statements and commentary in regard to people's healthcare. Healthcare is an individual personal issue which should be treated with respect as each individual may have chemical sensitivities or allergies which is why informed consent is an important right of any human being. We are seeing discrimination against people diagnosed with kidney disease; obesity; diabetes; skin problems; cancer, already compromised health issues; which should not be exposed to a so called cure for dental caries; "we are more than a set of walking teeth"

The therapeutic treatment of "artificial fluoridation" issue is very controversial nationally and internationally where countries like Israel (see attachment) are turning away from this archaic practice which disregards people's rights to choice and informed consent. The medical professionals cannot have it both ways.

Scenario: The doctor walks into his surgery on a winter's day with 50 patients waiting; does he walk into his waiting room and ask for a show of hands how many:

- have a cough
- have a sore throat
- running noses
- Etc.

“People with a cough are prescribed a broad spectrum antibiotic =Bacterim for all.
Those with a sore throat - amoxycillin three times a day with food
Those with running noses: panadol 2x4 times per day (no more than 8 per day)
And the little children are to receive the same”.

Nobody has had their history taken, their medications questioned and children and adults treated with the same dose, no matter what body weight or age.

This is the same scenario for artificial water fluoridation that some of your professionals are prescribing to the entire community. Can you understand why people are losing trust and belief in the medical profession.

We urge you for the sake of your profession to encourage your doctors, nurses, dentists et al to stop promoting therapeutic treatment of artificial water fluoridation to the general public as it is unethical to your profession. **Without informed consent.**

Yours sincerely,
Anna M & Sandra C
Names and addresses supplied but removed for privacy reasons.

ATTACHMENTS:

ADA Dr. Karin Alexander Media Release

http://www.ada.org.au/App_CmsLib/Media/Lib/1309/M685259_v1_635140562447210441.pdf

Community Response to Release

Dr. Vagg

<http://theconversation.com/fluoride-conspiracies-activism-harm-to-children-17723>

Israel discontinuing Fluoridation

http://www.naturalnews.com/042079_water_fluoridation_Israel_health_concerns.html

Deakin University: Complaint.

*M/s Jane den Hollander,
Geelong Waterfront Campus
1 Gheringhap Street
Geelong Victoria 3220*

*Deakin University Vice Chancellor and
Deakin University Academic Board.*

18th September, 2013

Re: Perceived Professional misconduct of Deakin University Senior Lecturer.

We wish to bring to your attention the fact that one of your senior lecturers is engaging in internet conversations which could be perceived as unprofessional.

Due to the fact that this lecturer represents Deakin Universities' School of Medicine, we feel that your attention needs to be immediately brought to this matter.

Whilst we respect the right to freedom of expression, when a senior lecturer is representing a university his/her comments must be backed with credible references, not anecdotal commentary. Name calling and making fun of a very serious health issue nationally, artificial water fluoridation, which causes many people suffering is not to be treated lightly (please read attached letter by Sandy S.

It is important that we see your senior representatives as highly professional when engaging in conversations on the internet, perhaps some lecturers have too much time on their hands to be engaging in such behaviour and should spend more time doing their job.

*Through these actions, this lecturer is bringing unnecessary loss of professional respect for Deakin, especially to the **school of medicine**.*

Please find attached article and conversations, which the University can deal with via internal memorandums to all lecturers reminding them of policy and protocol.

*Sincerely,
Anna M + Sandra C (names and addresses supplied)*

COPIES SENT TO:

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 NSW Shadow Minister for Health: Andrew McDonald: macquariefields@parliament.nsw.gov.au
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 Community Reference Group