

PATIENT SUBMISSIONS

Advice to patients about the MBA public consultation

Make a submission

It is important that the MBA hear how vital integrating care is to patients. Patient submissions should focus on why access to complementary and integrative medicine is vital to your health/wellbeing.

Make it Personal

Personal stories are powerful and memorable. You can:

Explain what your health was like before you found the integrative approach

Outline difficulties you had in getting appropriate care

Describe how an integrative approach has transformed your health/wellbeing

Demand the right to choose your preferred mode of medical care.

Protect your doctor

Submissions should not include:

- Your doctor's name
- Specifics of treatments

Choose Option 1

The MBA asks you to choose between keeping the status quo - Option 1 - and introducing the new guidelines - Option 2. Please clearly choose Option 1.

MBA Public Consultation



If, like many patients, you are concerned that the introduction of a new set of guidelines for your doctor will compromise your ability to access the healthcare of your choice you can make a submission to the MBA.

The new guidelines look like a direct attack on doctors and patients who choose an integrative approach to their care. Should these guidelines be adopted they could impact on patient choice and safety particularly as they may fail to align with the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care's *Patient Charter of Rights*.

In this era of championing patient-centred care and the right of the patient to co-design their treatment it is troubling that there seems to have been no consumer/patient input into these draft guidelines. Given that around 75% of Australians choose to integrate their health care this lack of patient input does not respect the patient and disregards the notion of patient choice.

Safety is a primary concern for AIMA and for all doctors. We believe that the current guidelines, which all doctors work under, appropriately protect patients. Adding a new set of regulations on top of the existing ones is likely to lead to confusion and will not provide any further protection for patients.

For more on the proposed guidelines visit:
www.medicalboard.gov.au/news/current-consultations