Mr Martin Fletcher CEO,

AHPRA GPO Box 9958

MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Via email: martin.fletcher@ahpra.gov.au

March 2022

Dear Mr Fletcher

I am an Australian citizen, and I am asking you, a public servant, to STOP SILENCING our medical frontline professionals. AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency) must remove the gag and let our medical practitioners speak for the benefit, wellbeing and best interests of healthcare and the Australian public. My family doctor never gives me a ‘one-size-fits-all’ treatment plan. I rely on my doctor’s ability to communicate his unrestricted medical opinions with me so we can make an informed, considered decision about my healthcare.

**AHPRA SHOULD REMOVE ITS GAG ORDER ON DOCTORS AND OTHER PRACTITIONERS WHO WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS AND OBSERVATIONS**

AHPRA states, “Any promotion of anti-vaccination statements or health advice which contradicts the best available scientific evidence or seeks to actively undermine the national immunisation campaign (including via social media) is not supported by National Boards. It may be in breach of the codes of conduct and subject to investigation and possible regulatory action.”

This is clearly a case of politics, not practise. There is no transparency surrounding this statement ‘*best available scientific evidence*’. It is a claim that cannot be challenged or opposed without social sanction and professional punishment. We as members of the public want to know upon what scientific evidence you are relying and why it cannot be challenged?

As clearly outlined by the Medical Indemnity Protection Society *“Health practitioners are obliged to ensure their views are consistent with public health messaging. This is particularly relevant in current times.* ***Views expressed which may be consistent with evidence-based material may not necessarily be consistent with public health messaging.*”**

Has AHPRA considered the following questions, and based on what evidence?

* What if a doctor relies on scientific evidence that is not consistent with public health messaging?
* Who decides what is “the best available scientific evidence” to support Mandates that are destroying the lives of thousands of Australians?
* What if a doctor relies on the thousands of adverse reports to the TGA to advise someone not to get vaccinated, or to advise someone of the risks, which according to AHPRA would be contrary to the national immunisation campaign and public health messaging?
* What if a doctor or other health professional has a different medical opinion from a Premier, Minister, Chief Health Officer or other political leader who is driving the public health messaging, most of whom are not medical practitioners?
* What if a patient has a condition that increases the risks of vaccination, but the national immunisation campaign has not addressed this condition and its associated risk? What if the doctor discusses this increased risk? Will the doctor face regulatory action over proper fulfilment of their professional obligation to that patient?

These provisionally approved gene-based vaccines are still undergoing significant evaluation by the TGA and as such, arguably, there is no conclusive evidence at this early stage of data collection to claim they are ‘*safe and effective*’. For AHPRA to gag health professionals from debating the risks vs benefits of masks, testing, social distancing, and mandates is wilful and potentially negligent behaviour that is subjecting Australians to potential harm and suffering.

If your ‘*best available scientific evidence*’ cannot stand up to scrutiny and questioning it is not science. **Therefore, we the public respectfully demand you remove the political muzzle you have placed on Australian health professionals and let them speak without threats and intimidation.**

Sincerely

Your Name

Australian Citizen