



Media statement

Gatton doctor charged with rape 21 October 2009

The Medical Board of Queensland received details from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) at noon today confirming a Gatton doctor had been charged with rape.

The Board is now considering immediately suspending the doctor and will make a decision shortly.

Chair of the Board, Dr Mary Cohn, said the public needed to be reminded and reassured that sexual harassment should never occur in a therapeutic context.

"This is a complete breach of trust," Dr Cohn said.

"Any exploitation of a relationship between a doctor and patient for sexual gratification is a clear abuse of power and will not be tolerated.

"Consent by a patient is not an acceptable defence in the case of sexual behaviour between a patient and a doctor. It is completely unacceptable in every instance."

Dr Cohn said doctors who have been disciplined for such behavior in the past will generally have conditions imposed upon their registration.

"These conditions are not applied lightly. They are generally the result of a tribunal hearing and an order of the court.

"If members of the public have concerns about their health practitioner I would encourage them to refer to the Public Register, located on the home page of the Medical Board of Queensland website.

"This tool provides the registration details, including any practice restrictions, of every doctor in Queensland and is a vital mechanism in helping Queenslanders to make informed decisions about their health care providers," Dr Cohn said.

Media Contact: Samantha Gregory-Kelly 3405 4007