



1 June 2009

### **Board suspends doctor after serious allegations of sexual misconduct**

The Medical Board of Queensland today announced the immediate suspension of a Brisbane South doctor after it found he posed a serious potential threat to female patients.

The suspension followed a number of serious allegations made by several of his patients about his conduct during treatment. This was despite the Board having previously restricted his practice by requiring him to have another person present while examining female patients. This suspension has been put in place to protect patients until further investigations are complete.

Chair of the Board, Dr Mary Cohn, acknowledged the notifications which led to the disciplinary action and 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.

Members of the public wishing to access this service should log on to [www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au](http://www.medicalboard.qld.gov.au)

The Medical Board of Queensland is an independent registration authority established to uphold the standards of practice with the medical profession in the state.



## Medical Board of Queensland

ABN: 35 789 357 327

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It is responsible for registering suitably qualified medical practitioners and ensuring safe and competent health service delivery to the public.

The Board receives, assesses and investigates serious complaints about the conduct of doctors. It has a specific role and powers to act in matters where it believes there is a need to protect the public.

**Media contact:** Samantha Gregory-Kelly (07) 3405 4007