

From: [Richard Chittleborough](#)
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
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Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence
Prevention Committee
Parliament House, George Street, BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary,

Re Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
Proposed legislation to outlaw conversion therapy.

Those in favour of the proposed legislation argue

“There is strong evidence that conversion therapy is harmful and correlated with higher rates of suicidality and self-harm”. Some reputable Professional bodies are reported as being formally opposed to conversion therapy as being “harmful and unethical”.

Against such legislative changes I argue

Most gender confused children will revert to identifying with chromosomal sex as they progress through puberty.

Psychotherapy has been shown to work

The suicide rate in trans-gendering adults is high (some 20 times higher than in the general population)

There is no evidence that trans-gendering measures will make children happy.

There is substantial evidence that the hormonal manipulation used in trans-gendering has serious and mostly irreversible side effects such as deleterious effects on the brain including a much higher rate of brain shrinking than that attributable to ageing. Some of these changes are becoming evident with only several months of use but trans-gendering processes require hormonal manipulation for many decades.

None of this is an easy black and white playing field but who is going to accept responsibility for the as yet poorly understood outcome of this grotesque hormonal and surgical experiment? Mainline medications for infections, heart disease, diabetes, etc. are hardly introduced with such flimsy evidential base.

Conversion therapy could possibly be argued to involve changing a person’s perceived sexual orientation, but there is no doubt at all that chemical and surgical trans-gendering is making enormous and irreversible changes and must surely be seen as very much in an experimental stage.

Punitive outlawing seems unbelievably heavy-handed as a means of forcing unproven human experimentation. History may provide a better rationale for our way forward with this contentious and horribly troubling issue. Who should be punitively outlawed? Probably neither side but certainly not the pro-conversion therapy side. Throw out the paragraphs relating to conversion therapy and leave outlawing to more serious crimes.

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