

From: [Margaret Knijnenburg](#)
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
Date: Friday, 3 January 2020 12:37:18 PM

Dear Committee of Inquiry

I write as a concerned citizen for the health and welfare of our children.

I wish to express my great concern over this pending legislature. I believe it denies the contribution of individual and family psychotherapy to the mental health of the child or adolescent with gender dysphoria. Any treatment which requires the possibility of lifelong hormone medication and major surgery requires much research and safe guards set in place, especially in the case of children with autism or other mental conditions.

There is a huge range of side effects from taking ongoing steroids. Doctors normally administer such drugs when they believe the gain outweighs the negative side effects. I believe there has not been sufficient research to ascertain the side effects of such drugs on young children struggling with gender dysphoria.

There are other avenues, not so radical or permanent, available which have been proven to be helpful in the past available to those in need.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Joan Knijnenburg

