

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Submission re the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
Date: Friday, 3 January 2020 2:24:02 PM

To

the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic
& Family Violence Prevention Committee

Submission concerning

the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

in particular

The Proposed amendment to the Public Health Act 2005

to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy by health service providers in Queensland

(Two pages)

Dear Committee members,

In the Committee's Explanatory Notes concerning the proposed amendment to the Public Health Act 2005 it is stated that the objective of the amendments, prohibiting conversion therapy, is to protect the Queensland LGBTIQ community from the harm caused by conversion therapy, and to send a strong message that being an LGBTIQ person is not a disorder that requires treatment or correction.

My comment

(a) I do not approve of any traumatic medical treatment such as 'shock therapy' aimed at altering a person's sex drive, but much help has been given with positive results to those seeking help through prayer. I therefore ask that health professionals not be prevented from directing those seeking help to counselling services.

(b) The statement that "being an LGBTIQ person is not a disorder" is not strictly true. One's sex drive is an important part of the function intended for the procreation of children. When there is arousal, e.g. in relation to same-sex attraction, that is not part of that function it signals a disorder of some kind. The most successful known 'treatments' so far have been through prayer, although some who have this affliction prefer to practice celibacy, as heterosexual people of faith do who do not marry. Same-sex attraction does not have to involve sexual practices.

Re: Conversion therapy Treatments

The statement in the Notes that "Conversion Therapy is a term used to describe treatments and practices that attempt to change or suppress a person's 'sexual orientation' or 'gender identity'" is followed by a limited commentary

My comment

It fails to mention that sex-change treatments are also conversion therapy. Giving a child puberty blocking drugs or other medications designed to promote 'sex change' are also harmful. The note says that "clinical and social science research has produced overwhelming evidence that conversion therapy is psychologically harmful and correlated with higher rates of 'suicidality', self-harm and other adverse health outcomes". The same applies to subjecting children to sex-change treatments, which are also conversion therapies, before they are old enough to make informed decisions concerning those things that will affect them for the rest of their lives.

I am glad that many professional and expert bodies, including the Australian Psychological Association, Australian Medical Association and World Health Organisation, formally oppose the use of conversion therapy and acknowledge that these practices are harmful and unethical. I understand that they also oppose the conversion therapies whereby harmful sex-change medications are given to children.

The American College of Paediatricians urges healthcare professionals, educators and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. They makes it clear that such conditioning is child abuse.

They explain that puberty-blocking hormones induce a state of disease and inhibit growth and fertility in a previously biologically healthy child. Cross-sex hormones are also associated with health risks such as cardiac arrest, high blood pressure, blood clots, stroke, diabetes and cancer.

Conclusion

(a) My recommendation is that the Committee advises the government to make it clear in the Bill that there is to be no medical or surgical interference with minors under 18 years of age in the area of their sexuality, either to suppress the sex drive or to alter the physical body to bring it in line with a desired orientation.

(b) I recommend that the Committee advises the Government not to penalise health professionals for refusing to carry out any procedure or to support any procedure which is likely to result in harm to their patients.

(c) I also recommend that no health professional be penalised for counselling their patients or referring their patients to other counsellors. It never hurts to listen to advice, but patients are at liberty to act on it or not as they please.

Thank you in anticipation.

Submitted by: Miss Cecily Mac Alpine

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Date: 03 January, 2020

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