

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission: section 5B of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.  
**Date:** Sunday, 5 January 2020 5:43:05 PM

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I write as a concerned medical practitioner regarding section 5B of the *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*.

This section of the bill deals with conversion therapies and appears to outlaw any of the well accepted and effective psychotherapeutic, family therapy or counselling approaches for patients with gender dysphoria.

It is well-known that the vast majority of children with gender dysphoria will revert to acceptance of their natal sex with the passage of time and appropriate counselling/psychotherapy.

However, the currently favoured approach at several metropolitan paediatric specialist centres is affirmation therapy which often includes administration of puberty blocking drugs and potential for sex reassignment surgery with permanent life changing side-effects including sterility.

To stigmatise the previously and largely successful non-medicinal/nonsurgical treatments as "conversion therapies" is disingenuous and will do a great disservice to many troubled children by essentially denying them access to treatment which is not associated with irreversible side-effects including but not limited to loss of reproductive capacity. Many sex reassigned individuals will require a lifetime of ongoing medical supervision.

The current section of the bill should be removed or at least extensively revised so as not to prohibit effective but less radical treatment options.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Christopher Middleton FRACP.  
[REDACTED]