

From: [Robert Chazan](#)
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to inquiry re Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
Date: Monday, 6 January 2020 10:22:58 AM

Dr Robert Chazan

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Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

I wish to make a submission relating to the proposed legislation regarding conversion therapy, i.e. 213F (1), (2) and (3).

I am a child and adolescent and general psychiatrist of more than 40 years experience, and am in practice in Victoria. Although I am not in Queensland, I note that the practice environment in other states affects expectations in the whole country.

I take no issue with the banning of conversion therapy, but am concerned that the Bill's reference to specific treatment categories ("aversion therapy, psychoanalysis and hypnotherapy") will lead to unintended consequences.

In particular, psychoanalysis is not a conversion therapy; it is a legitimate and large body of knowledge that informs many disciplines in a spirit of open inquiry. There is a huge literature about its nature which is openly available.

Neither psychoanalysis nor hypnotherapy should be in the same clause as aversion therapy. The former two are facilitating, and in no sense coercive.

I am concerned that the protections in 213F (3) for professionals is insufficiently explicit. A person who is contemplating transitioning but has doubt about their gender identification should have available professional support to explore the issue without being impelled to make a permanent irreversible transition.

The Bill does not take into account the varying degrees of certainty of a person's gender identity. Its definition of vulnerability is highly restricted.

If legislation intimidates the very professional treatment providers who can assist a person weighing their options, then the profession is damaged and the individual persons are harmed.

Yours faithfully,

Robert Chazan

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