

From: [Jim Rawson](#)
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Cc: [Everton Electorate Office](#)
Subject: Health Legislation Amendment Bill submission
Date: Monday, 6 January 2020 9:37:15 PM

To the committee,

Unfortunately, I have been on holidays and was unaware of the need to make a submission so I missed the lunchtime deadline today. I hope you may consider my submission since it is still on the submission day.

Submission

I did my PhD in steroidal chemistry in the Veterinary Physiology department at Sydney University. I then did post-doctoral studies with Syntex Corporation who at that time manufactured approximately 50% of the world's steroids (Schering made about 50% of the rest). Later, I was in charge of their manufacturing and getting compounds through the FDA in the US. Why do I mention this? Anyone who knows anything about physiologically active steroids knows how powerful even small doses of them are. Further, if you look up information on any of the main steroids used in humans you will discover the huge range of side effects (check out corticoids e.g. prednisone, plus oestrogens, androgens, progestogens, yes and even bufadienolides, the cane toad venom, there are also heart steroids). We had to get our compounds at least 98% pure and test the side effects of the small impurities remaining because they often had deleterious effects.

When doctors prescribe steroids for medical conditions they do so because they believe that the net gain will outweigh the potential negative side effects. To give anyone unnecessary steroids is playing with extraordinarily complex outcomes in humans (research what happened to East German sporting women who took androgens). Syntex provided all their birth control pills free to their employees but my wife could not use any of them because of their side effects on her. Research into the side effects of giving steroids to unfortunate children who have gender dysphoria is really at the infantile stage. Our children should not become guinea pigs. Further, to do unnecessary surgical procedures on anyone who is not an adult is very irresponsible. Sometime in the future we will need to make yet another public apology and pay compensation to those we irresponsibly chemically and surgically mistakenly mutilated.

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PS I have copied in T Mander who is my local member.