

**From:** [Peter Kington](#)  
**To:** [Aaron Harper](#); [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Joe Kelly](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019  
**Date:** Wednesday, 22 January 2020 3:58:59 PM

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Dear Aaron

Thank you for accepting my comments as a late submission, by way of email (and thank you to Joe Kelly for supporting this request).

I would like to tidy up the information I sent to Joe, for your consideration:

- I am a gay man who was not subjected to conversion therapy
- I am a registered health practitioner (Chinese Medicine) under the National Law
- My work and personal experiences in life have given me cause to interact with people who have been subjected to conversion therapy
- I am satisfied the Health Legislation Amendment Bill (2019) adequately protects individuals from health service providers offering conversion therapy (registered and unregistered).
- I am concerned individuals offering variants on health professions - for example, 'spiritual counselling' from within religious bodies - might be confusing to the public. In my experience it is these organisations which are more likely to offer conversion therapy - not registered health professionals.
- I would propose the Act be amended to specifically *"prevent health service providers, health service organisations and any other individual or organisation, who or which does not fall under the definition of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013, from providing conversion therapy in Queensland."*

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

Peter Kington  


On 20 Jan 2020, at 3:19 pm, Joe Kelly <[Joe.Kelly@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Joe.Kelly@parliament.qld.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear Aaron,

I am writing to you on behalf of a constituent Peter Kington.

I hope your committee might consider accepting Peter's email below as a late submission to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

If you would like further information from Peter please feel free to contact him directly.

Also if the committee is looking for witnesses to provide evidence during public hearings, I would recommend Peter based on his experience in the health sector.

Feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss further.

Regards,

Joe Kelly  
Member for Greenslopes

<Outlook-lmlwnwpt.jpg>

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From: Peter Kington [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 17 January 2020 8:09 AM  
To: Joe Kelly  
Subject: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

Hi Joe

It has recently come to my attention that legislation is currently before the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee regarding your government's intention to ban 'Conversion Therapy'.

It will come as no surprise to you that this is an issue close to my heart as I have personally witnessed the devastating effects such practices have on individuals subjected to this practice- often against their will.

The committee took public submissions on these changes across the worst time of year when Queenslanders go on holidays. Submissions closed on 6 January and I was out of the country.

In writing, I am hoping you might take my input on board when discussing this legislation with colleagues or the Minister.

My particular concern is that the legislation only bans the practice with registered health professionals. I think this is a limited application and it should simply ban the practice. Currently, the legislation means a doctor can't provide conversion therapy but a counsellor (not AHPRA registered) might.

Similarly, the bill does not address conversion therapy as an expression of 'faith practice' and it should because most victims of conversion therapy I have encountered have done so under the guise of their church/faith practice. Often this is promoted as 'spiritual counselling'.

I realise it is often difficult to capture all possible scenarios in legislation, but

as it stands the specific definition of whom the legislation might apply to is inversely inadequate because it lets far too many other potential offenders through the net.

Thanks so much for considering this.

All the best

Peter Kington



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