

From: [Alon Barnes](#)
To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
Subject: Re Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019
Date: Monday, 30 December 2019 9:06:31 PM

Dear Committee Secretary,

Thankyou for inviting submissions regarding the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

I would like to write on the concerns I have regarding this legislature.

As a medical doctor I trust that the committee has undertaken an extensive literature review of available evidence with respect to the outcomes of various therapies employed for those who suffer the unfortunate predicament of gender dysphoria. As a medical doctor and more importantly as a parent I am concerned that the committee has not respected the available evidence on the subject at hand.

I am concerned that established methods such as individual and family psychotherapy which seek to explore and address the reason a child is suffering gender dysphoria are being sidelined for quick fix approaches including pharmacotherapy and surgical alteration. For these we have no long term data and the short term data indeed does not demonstrate encouraging outcomes for these individuals who continue to suffer significant psychological pathology despite these treatments.

Please I urge you, do not go beyond the safety of existing evidence in this field, These novel approaches to the treatment of gender dysphoria are experimental and driven by ideology and not science.

Kind regards,
Dr Alon Barnes