

Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee
Parliament House Brisbane QLD 4000

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

This Submission is with respect to Chapter 5B Conversion Therapies. I am submitting as a private citizen.

I am deeply concerned that this proposed legislation is harmful to children who have **gender identity** issues. The proposed amendment seeks to ban an evidence based approach to treating people with gender identity issues, and the legislation seeks to endorse medical treatments that are not well researched and have serious side effects.

1. Proposed ban on conversion therapy

213F includes counselling in the definition of conversion therapy.

According to the DSM-5, as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.

This legislation seeks to **abandon** a 'watchful waiting' model. For example, it would ban a paediatrician or child psychiatrist from counselling the child and their parents that most people outgrow gender dysphoria through puberty.

2. This proposed legislation allows gender-affirming hormone treatment

The safety of cross-sex hormones or puberty blockers has not been substantiated. As per the American College of Pediatricians, inhibits growth and fertility in previously biologically healthy children.

3. Call for a Parliamentary Inquiry by > 200 medical practitioners

Dr John Whitehall, Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health has written to Greg Hunt MP (Federal Minister For Health) requesting a parliamentary inquiry into the social and medical transitioning of children with gender dysphoria. His letter has been signed by more than 200 medical doctors.

I believe any new legislation should be put on hold while this inquiry takes place. Dr John Whitehall has written a 16 page document that outlines in great detail his concerns. The link is below.

<https://genderinquiry.wordpress.com/>

4. American College of Pediatricians – Gender Ideology Harms Children

The American College of Pediatricians has released an evidence based position statement titled 'Gender Ideology Harms Children'. 'The American College of Paediatricians urges healthcare professionals, educators and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts – not ideology – determine reality'.

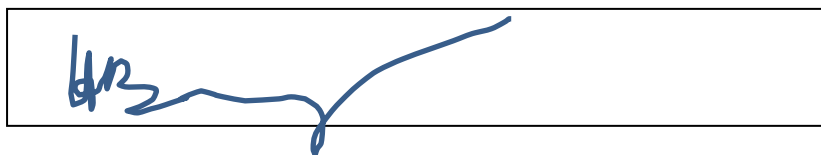
This document reinforces that most children will grow out their gender dysphoria. This document outlines the harms of cross sex hormones.

This document outlines that rates of suicide are nearly twenty times greater among adults who use cross-sex hormones and undergo sex reassignment surgery.

<https://www.acped.org/the-college-speaks/position-statements/gender-ideology-harms-children>

I urge the committee to consider the evidence that has been presented by the American College of Pediatricians and Dr John Whitehall, Professor of Pediatrics and Child Health. Children are precious and deserve safe, evidence based medicine.

Thankyou for considering this submission.



Helen Beeley – submitting as a private citizen.

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