

## Health and Ambulance Services Committee

---

**From:** John Favaro [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 11 October 2015 8:13 PM  
**To:** Health and Ambulance Services Committee  
**Subject:** RE: New Queensland Mental Health Draft Bills

**Categories:** Regd, Printed

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing to make my objection toward the new Mental Health draft bills, which will allow for children of any age to consent to electric shock or psychosurgery without parental consent.

It is incredible that forced drugging, restraint and seclusion of children without the need for parental consent is set to remain legal. Even the World Health Organisation stated, "There are no indicators for the use of ECT on minors." Interesting, very very interesting. And here are two drafts bills being considered.

Psychosurgery for children in NSW and NT for all age groups have correctly banned psychosurgery and in SA and WA have banned all forms for children under 16. And that children placed in psychiatric wards with adults and sexual abuse not being ruled out. I just don't understand the logic behind these bills.

I cannot believe that this is even being considered seriously. It is most alarming. And the involuntary treatment of children and adults must not occur just because a person does not recognise they are mentally ill. Full physical tests must be done to determine if their "psychiatric symptoms" are caused by undiagnosed physical condition. And not some diagnosis based on "checklists" and arbitrary opinions of psychiatrists.

Children and adults who are troubled need a safe environment with nutrition and care and not the brutality of ECT and other such treatments. One only need to pose the question, "Would you want your friends, family or even yourself if troubled subjected to ECT?" And so that's why my letter is written forewith to you. Please consider humane methods of care for our brothers and sisters, which are out there and available, no matter who they are in our community. And please say no to these bills.

Yours sincerely,

John Favaro

A very concerned [REDACTED] Queensland resident.

PS: My postal address is [REDACTED]

Thank you for your time to read my letter.