

Health and Ambulance Services Committee

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 October 2015 1:57 PM
To: Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

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Dear Research Director, Health and Ambulance Services Committee

I would express my objections to certain things in the draft bills that I deem to have serious consequences for our Children and the public at Large.

Mental Health week has just passed and there has been an extremely large emphasis placed on Mental Health and Mental Health prevention. This can add a bias to anyone 'objecting' to a mental health bill as not being on the band wagon. Just in the same way that any politician or public figure saying in any way or even vaguely implying that they don't think gay marriage acceptable, will soon find them on social media, publicly trailed, convicted and executed. This is not democracy. In the same way, speaking about Mental Health or opposing certain aspects of it during Mental Health month can also cloud what is right in contrast to what is popular.

in regards to these Bills I would like to point out that there is a difference between prevention and brutality.

Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) is quite brutal, in that it is used to treat disorders by creating convulsions using electricity.

Trying to discover the exact voltage used by an ECT machine to create a convulsion is vague, however it is suggested that it could be up to 450v of electricity and any recommendation to use this device on Children or People in General should have external expertise (not related to the Psychiatric medical profession) advise on the exact consequences and voltage being administrated.

If you ever had an electrical shock, even mild like, static electricity, you found it unpleasant. Pumping high voltages through someone to create a convulsion or get close to a convulsion cannot be good for a body or mind. Many people undergo ECT through informed consent, if they want to do themselves in, it is up to them and there are many a Psychiatrist that would be happy to provide this experience to them.

Informed consent is the consensus around the world about receiving ECT treatment. The new bills recommend the use of ECT on Children without proper consent. This should be changed.

The reason for involuntary consent occurs where it is deemed by a psychiatrist whether someone is incapable of providing consent.

Informed consent should be the backbone of our civilized society. Sometimes a person is deemed incapable of making that consent however that 'deemed incapable' must be made by a parent/guardian or through the law (magistrate) who then can decide on the right to detain someone while they have proper representation and the facts are presented. This new bills must emphasise the use of consent and there must be avenues for recourse or appeals for a child's or another's involuntary detention.

ECT should be made illegal on Children and other venerable members of society such as pregnant women, the elderly or anyone who does not consent to receiving ECT. So this is where your child is giving ECT, would you allow your child to have ECT? You might say, if a doctor so deems it necessary and if it will safeguard their future mental health, I will do so.

With informed consent comes being informed and if you were informed then you would not hesitate to not allow such a practice on your child or any member of your family.

Deep Brain Stimulation and any form of psycho surgery should be banned for the treatment of any mental disorders. Name changes to hide the practice should also be banned and made illegal. We trust Psychiatrist because they have qualifications and are supposed to know what they are doing. If every doctor was did the right thing, we would never have any problem and no legal cases against malpractice, thus laws must exist to protect those who cannot be protected otherwise. This pscho-surgery to treat mental illness in many cases results in people being incapacitated for life relying then on a lifetime of support services , medications and treatment of tax payers money which easily could have been prevented had the brain been left alone and other reversible means were employed.

Children should not be placed in Psychiatric wards where they can share facilities with adults or be subject to mental, physical and sexual abuse. Stronger measures are needed to protect children admitted to wards and there should be no involuntary strip searches especially of children. If ever it is to be done, then a humane and decent way should be recommended and followed and if not then fines and other penalties should be imposed for violations of children or patients. Children should be separated from Adult wards and kept with children and treated with dignity and respect. There must be mandatory reporting of alleged crimes against children while under the care of such wards.

Why should it be a concern? Imagine, your child, taken away from you, without your consent, maybe you can afford a good lawyer and have them returned. With the proposal in the laws, there is no provision that the ward or a psychiatrist would return your child, thus while you are fighting your battle with the state to have your child released then what would you do if your child is released and while in the 'care' of the ward suffered pain, abuse, was terrified or worried?

To cause pain, to abuse , to terrify or worry an animal is deemed by Australian law to be a more serious offence, carries a heavy fine (fines up to \$235,000) and creates more public outrage than harm caused by psychiatric treatment.

We cannot afford to treat animals better than any human being and where psychiatrist or any person in this field practices outside the law and cause pain, abuse, or terrifies or worries a child or patient and is found guilty they will walk away with a fine (\$11, 000). Stronger measures must be taken and the penalties should be harsher for abuses against our children than that of the protection of animals in Australia. We should get his right. Animals of course should receive the protection they receive by never more than if the same thing was done to a human being as for obvious reasons, it would be wrong.

There are many reasons for these bills and there will always be opposition to bills. Mental Health is a problem around the world and answers are needed. Look at the statistics. A real solution solves things. Instead mental health disorders, mental health issues are on the increase and is showing no signs of slowing down. The stress this is placing on funding is growing each year and each year our children are becoming more illiterate, drug use is increasing, crime in some places are on the rise and the root cause analysis should be done. We're doing something wrong in treating 'mental health' in many cases. There are problems, people do face things that are difficult. This is life, is you ever read the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for disorders) I am sure you will find every single human being on earth is suffering from a some type of mental illness of some sort, if you do a honest diagnosis of the various disorders, you would discover this.

That there is a mental problem, of this there is no question. We need to ensure that the bills allow the protection of individuals in a fair and decent way. The idea of doing something for someone for 'their own good' has never been workable, because how do you feel when someone imposes something on you 'for your own good' regardless of the circumstance. Doing things that give Psychiatrists and those in the related field leeway in doing as they please because they are the experts is wrong, everyone should be accountable for their actions. The common cry of mental health practitioners are "they(the patients) came to us too late" "or "if we could only intervene earlier". These cries are to justify their failures for not being able solve their patient's problems or when something goes wrong.

We are creating a future of drug addicts, incompetence and sick people by 'treating' them for mental disorders where other options should be addressed first. such a full medical check-up to find any pathological disease or deficiency. It is

easy to pass the buck by doctors and other health practitioners to prescribe drugs or refer to a psychiatrist because of their failures to identify and help someone.

Our children are our future, when we fill them up with harmful drugs that had severe side effects or pass laws that don't protect them we are letting our future down.

It us up to you, those people placed in position of trust to do the right thing. The entire state of Queensland and Australia depends on you to make the right choices that will be seen as fair, reasonable and done in good faith and not done to satisfy the needs of those who profit or can hide their crimes behind a legislation that will protect them and which opens the door for misuse.

At the end of the day, it is you and those in power who make the decisions about these bills and that your decision is something you have to live with it where it will be the future generations that will either benefit or be adversely affected by the decisions made today.

These are my objections and I hope it is given thought. Although I live in NSW, I feel that this could affect NSW if these bills are approved as they are.

(To be listed as Anonymous)

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