

Health and Ambulance Services Committee

From: Rebecca Sferco [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 October 2015 2:31 PM
To: Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Subject: Urgent Qld MHB 2015
Attachments: 1012-ReadBentallECT.pdf; ATT00001.htm; 1012-ReadBentallECT.pdf; ATT00002.htm
Categories: Printed

Edited to previous email to include my postal address...

To the Research Director, Health and Ambulance Services Committee,

I am writing to you to voice my grave concerns and certain objections especially in relation to the lack of protection to children in the New Qld Mental Health Act, that must be changed to protect children and parental rights.

ELECTROSHOCK OF CHILDREN (ECT)

Firstly there are no bans on ECT (Electric shock) on children under the age of 18 in the bill. The World Health Organization of which I studied extensively (in my Health Science in Public Health degree at QUT) states "There are no indications for the use of ECT on minors, and hence this should be prohibited through legislation." [WHO RESOURCE BOOK ON MENTAL HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGISLATION' 2005, pg 64.]

ECT is the brutal application of hundreds of volts of electricity to the head, potentially causing brain damage, memory loss and sometimes heart attack, stroke and death. It is really alarming that the current law in Qld even allows for children to be electroshocked.

The Western Australia parliament has just banned ECT for under 14s (after the research cited above was cited in parliament). Also in the USA Texas has banned ECT for under 16 year olds and Sicily with a population of 5 million has now completely banned the use of ECT. There are other bans around the world for its use on children too.

I've also included a Document of a very comprehensive study on "The effectiveness of ECT"see below...