

Star Serafinya Blessyng

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Paddington Qld 4064

15<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Health and Community Services Committee

The Research Director

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to address several points of concern in the new Draft Bill currently before Parliament relating to the new Queensland Mental Health Act that must be changed to protect children and parental rights.

1. Electroshock of children (ECT) pages 170-171, 558, 318-320 of Queensland Mental Health Bill 2014 (MHB 2014).  
The new Qld Draft Bill currently before Parliament contains no bans to prevent its use on children. Electroshock must be banned for use on children, pregnant women and the elderly. It should never be given to involuntary patients without their fully informed consent. The World Health Organisation stated, "There are no indications for the use of ECT on minors, and hence this should be prohibited through legislation".
2. Psychosurgery of children pages 169-170, 172-173, 49, 558, 321-322 of Queensland Mental Health Bill 2014 (MHB 2014).  
Deep brain stimulation must be banned for all ages. All forms of psychosurgery are correctly banned in NSW and the NT for all age groups. It is NOT an approved mental health treatment in Australia. It is also proposed to re-name psychosurgery – DBS as "neurosurgery". They are not the same and this is an attempt to hide the true nature of this barbaric experimental practice.
3. Restraint and seclusion of children pages 179-181, 186, 380-381 of Queensland Mental Health Bill 2014 (MHB 2014).  
Both chemical and physical restraint need to be prohibited for use in children, pregnant women and the elderly. The new Draft Bill fails to provide any legal safeguards against children and adults being subjected to chemical restraint (the use of psychiatric drugs to

subdue and control). All forms of restraint can and have caused significant trauma and also death.

4. Children placed in psychiatric wards with adults and sexual abuse pages 260, 263-269 of Queensland Mental Health Bill 2014 (MHB 2014).

The law must be amended to ensure that children are not placed in adult wards and to ensure mandatory reporting of alleged sexual abuse and sexual abuse offenders are provided avenues for education of ethics and personal integrity and human rights along with humane rehabilitation techniques.

5. Involuntary commitment of children pages 47, 50-51, 57-59, 61, 315-317, 39, 277, 402 of Queensland Mental Health Bill 2014 (MHB 2014).

No child should be involuntarily detained and treated without parental/guardian consent. Only a judge or magistrate should have the right to detain someone and only with full legal representation for the person facing deprivation of liberty, paid for by the State.

The Qld Mental Health budget has exploded 42% since 2009/10, up from \$810M to \$1.152B. With a budget of this size, one would expect there to be complete accountability and responsibility for money spent. Yet there has been a 65% increase in mental health service complaints between 2009/10 and 2011/12. If the funds spent were actually helping people, this would be evidenced in the statistics by decreasing numbers of complaints and people labelled as "mentally ill". It seems to be doing the reverse of the supposed intention. Is the intention for people to get actually better, to flourish and prosper or a means of avoiding responsibility by sedating and punishing people that can't cope with life?

There are existing alternatives and real solutions. There is no doubt that some children who are troubled require special care. But they should be given holistic, humane care that improves their condition. Institutions should be safe havens and islands of sanity where children and adults voluntarily seek help for themselves or their child without fear of indefinite incarceration or harmful and terrifying treatment. They need a quiet and safe environment, good nutrition, rest, exercise and help with life's problems. Extensive medical evidence proves that underlying and undiagnosed physical illnesses can manifest as psychiatric symptoms and therefore should be addressed with the correct medical treatment, not brutal psychiatric techniques. Studies show that once the physical condition is addressed, the mental symptoms can disappear. With proper medical treatment and real help via sane communication and education, people can lead healthier, happier lives. People naturally want to be happier and need to be shown the way to happiness.

Yours Sincerely,

Star Serafinya Blessyng