

22 July 2016

The Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email [lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Director

**Submission on the *Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Qld)***

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Qld) (Bill).

Caxton Legal Centre supports the Bill's amendment of The Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld) (Criminal Code) to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse.

We consider that the amendments will remove the potential operation of discriminatory laws impacting on young gay males. Having observed the impact of discrimination against our clients from the LGBTI community for many years, we are acutely aware of the importance of removing laws that operate unfairly and afford less favourable treatment to young gay males. In this particular case, the discriminatory impact of the existing age of consent laws extends beyond mental and emotional health to include physical health. This results from the laws acting as an impediment to health providers providing access to important sexual health education materials and services.

We commend the Bill for placing young gay men equal before the law.

Yours faithfully



Scott McDougall  
Director