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**From:** Karen Hvidding [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 30 January 2022 8:13 PM  
**To:** Mental Health Select Committee  
**Subject:** Queensland mental health act  
**Categories:** Submission

1.

Good morning,

I am a social worker and a specialist sexual assault counsellor in Queensland. I work closely with children and families who are affected by various mental health conditions. Their mental health symptoms often have underlying causes that can be traced back to violence, sexual assault, and drug and alcohol addiction.

When entering the mental health system in Queensland, my clients are often treated with disdain and ignorance. They are often misdiagnosed and prescribed cocktails of various medications that might make their symptoms worse or completely numb them. They are subjected to barbaric treatments at the hands of unscrupulous "professionals" who are never held accountable.

It is necessary to change the mental health system and I ask that the following be taken into consideration as a way forward for people who have these debilitating conditions.

1. The Queensland *Mental Health Act* must be amended to ban electroshock, restraint, seclusion, deep brain stimulation and dramatically increase criminal fines and prison terms for ill-treatment of a patient.
2. Involuntary detainment and treatment is eliminated from the *Queensland Mental Health Act*.
3. Every death in in the mental health system is investigated for criminal culpability and negligence and any misconduct involving prescription practices is also reported to police for criminal investigation.
4. Existing money is re-directed to proven workable solutions that do not harm and money is only given to organisations that are held fully accountable and are actually producing results.

Kind regards,

Karen Hvidding  
[REDACTED]

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