




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and the amendments moved by the Deputy Premier, the member for Murrumba. I acknowledge that this bill has some components in relation to acts that it alters, but in terms of my commentary today I would like to make a contribution specifically around the gender conversion therapy practice to which the bill relates.

We know that conversion therapy is a dangerous and discredited practice. Health authorities across Australia oppose it and the untold damage that it does to people. Evidence shows that conversion therapy has long-lasting mental health impacts and increases the risk of suicide for people who undergo it. All Queenslanders expect that health professionals will not use treatments that are harmful and not based on evidence. As it stands, it is legal for people to administer electric shock therapy or provide nausea-inducing drugs as part of gay conversion therapy. It is a practice which is allowed to happen here in Queensland, and we know that it is happening. It is fundamentally wrong and it needs to change.

By introducing this legislation we have sent a very clear message to all members of the LGBTIQ community, particularly young people, that there is nothing wrong with you. You are not sick. You do not have a disease that requires treatment. You cannot be fixed because there is nothing wrong with you. You are loved and you deserve to be treated with respect. This is a government that supports you.

It has been deeply saddening to see some of the worse elements of our society come out and attack young people for the people they love and for their gender identity. It is graceful that some media commentators and elements of the radical right use this legislation to attack young people who are struggling to figure out who they are. They have lied and misrepresented this legislation as something it is not, and they have done it to the detriment of people in the LGBTIQ community.

I want to clear up one thing: no health practitioner will be required to provide treatment to people of the LGBTIQ community, but they will be prevented from engaging in dangerous and ineffective practices. Queensland is leading the way to ensure that this protection is for all in our community. I support the bill.