

# Don't Take Our Word For It

Extracts from submission to Parliamentary Inquiry on *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* – proposing inserting Chapter 5B into the *Public Health Act 2005*.

“Unless conversion practices are narrowly and clearly defined in Queensland regulations, then **doctors (including psychiatrists) using established approaches** to assessing and treating patients with gender dysphoria may be **in breach** of the new Queensland legislation”.

*National Association of Practising Psychiatrists (NAPP)*

“This legislation is **well-intentioned; but it is also wholly unnecessary**. From a **legal point of view, it is not well-considered**. Because both sexual orientation and gender identity can be quite fluid and changeable in the adolescent years, there is no clear point at which it can be said that a line in the sand has been crossed, making it unlawful, from that point onwards, to engage in any therapeutic intervention that might be interpreted, if only by the adolescent, as encouraging a change in a fixed and immutable sexual orientation or gender identity.”

*Professor Patrick Parkinson AM, Legal Scholar*

“The legislation could **lead to the prosecution of health professionals** providing evidence based practices”

*AMA Queensland*

“This Bill **lacks a scientific basis**, has not established the need, overrides the **basic human rights** of parents, children and adolescents, deprives practitioners of ethical, autonomous clinical judgment, and has the potential to inflict severe and irreversible harm on those receiving gender "affirming" therapy during childhood and adolescence given that most desist if not treated with GAT.”

*Dianna Kenny, PhD, MAPS, Professor of Psychology*

“The Bill suggests that the evidence for conversion therapy occurring is clear and settled but this is **far from the truth**.”

*AMA Queensland*

“The current drafting of section 213F is extremely broad and **does not provide sufficient certainty** as to what conduct is targeted and what practices are excluded”

*Queensland Law Society*

“In 2019, **four individuals raised concerns** or allegations about psychiatrists having previously practiced conversion therapy in Australia and New Zealand, none were recorded for Queensland. These complaints **pertain to past practices** and claim the alleged conduct occurred **during the period 1950-1970**”

*Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)*

“I can advise that to date, this office **has not received any complaints regarding any type of ‘conversion therapy’**, as described in clause 213F (1) of the Bill.”

*Andrew Brown, Health Ombudsman*

“[Our main concerns are:] Potential for the legislation to **limit therapeutic approaches** supporting children and adolescents who present with gender dysphoria”

*AMA Queensland*

“**I have power to take immediate action** against health practitioners if their practicing of conversion therapy poses a serious risk and necessitates a need to protect the public, or where it is in the public interest.”

*Andrew Brown, Health Ombudsman*

“The proposed definition is broad, ... this could lead to unintended consequences whereby **clinical practice may possibly be at risk of legal action** despite there being no use of conversion practices”

*Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP)*

“QLS is concerned about the **lack of any cogent data** to support treating this conduct as a criminal law issue”

*Queensland Law Society*

“We consider that the practice of conversion therapy is **already capable of being targeted by the relevant health regulators** and referred to the Health Ombudsman”

*Queensland Law Society*

“QLS is concerned that the prospect of criminal prosecution may **fetter otherwise legitimate aspects of psychological and psychiatric treatment**”

*Queensland Law Society*

## **Many of These Concerns Will Also Affect Parents and Staff in Christian Schools**

**Contact your [State MP](#) and raise your concerns**

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