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The Hon. Andrew Barr MLA

Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion & Equality, Minister for Tourism & Special Events, Minister for Trade, Industry & Investment

Tuesday, 25 August 2020

Dear Chief Minister,

As a matter of courtesy we send a copy of a Media Release we issued today. We appreciate and share your concern for children affected with gender dysphoria. Our worry is that your advisors do not seem to have heard of the good news that almost all affected children will revert to an identity congruent with chromosomes through puberty. All that is needed in the great majority of cases is 'watchful waiting' in expectation of natural reversion, supported by individual and family counselling, and appropriate administration of psychiatric care.

Your advisors appear unaware of sustained complications from hormone therapy, particularly when administered to the growing brain of childhood and adolescence. And, they do not seem aware of the much higher rate of suicide in transgendered adults.

We do not seek to be confrontational and would be very happy to speak personally with you and yours at any time. We have spoken strongly in our press release because of the apparent strength of commitment of your government to restrict vital Human Rights in pursuit of your concerns that only hormonal therapy etc will help the child. It is not our wish for your government to be embarrassed but you must surely have been informed of the growing number of 'detransitioners' who have begun to sue for compensation for misleading advice with regard to treatment for gender dysphoria in adolescence and childhood.

We would like to emphasise your advisors appear to have overlooked there is another right for children: the right to be protected from medical experimentation. Perhaps your advisors have not pointed to the many articles which declare there is lack of evidence to suggest long term benefit from hormonal 'affirmative' therapy, and that current 'trials' are not really 'research' for they are flawed by lack of controls, presence of observer error and other confounders.

We appreciate the definition of 'conversion therapy' is imprecise but point to the recent Qld enquiry and the inability of people to actually point to, even remember' a case of coercive, aversive therapy anyway similar to the spectre of torture the term raises. Indeed, perhaps you are unaware a Queensland parliamentarian wondered why a law should be passed that would criminalise something that did not exist.

We do not support, in any way, coercive and aversive therapy. But we do believe that an adult should have the human right to seek and receive help with stress suffered from unwanted mental pre-occupations including, but not limited to sexuality.



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We repeat it is not our intention to be confrontational. We would be happy to discuss these things in person and regret the opportunity was overlooked. We have spoken strongly in our Media Release only with a sense of responsibility for children who, we believe, may be directed in inappropriate medical direction by your legislation. We wanted to make the point before parliament next met. We appreciate the Bible declares 'a soft answer turneth away wrath' and that discussion is better than confrontation but, in this case, lost for time, we felt obliged to be outspoken.

Yours sincerely

Prof. John Whitehall

National Chair Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia



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