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MEDIA RELEASE. For immediate release Tuesday 25th august 2020

Topic: ACT, ‘Sexuality and Gender Identity Conversion Practices Bill 2020’.

The Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia who represent over 800 Healthcare professionals and students raises significant concerns regarding the above proposed bill specifically:

- The Bill will criminalise any attempt to delay or avoid referral of a child confused over gender to a clinic that practices ‘affirmative therapy’ involving hormones and possibly surgery. 12 months incarceration will apply.
- ‘Any person’ with influence in the child’s life will be at risk of criminalisation. The Bill extends beyond paediatricians and psychiatrists and will involve school teachers and various counsellors.
- It will involve parents who do not submit their confused child to ‘affirmative’ intervention.
- It will involve parents and others who seek to remove the child from ACT for alternative care. Incarceration of 12 months will apply.
- The Bill refers to ‘harms’ of so-called ‘conversion therapy’ (in this case ‘converting’ a child from confusion to orientation with its chromosomes). But it ignores the harms of ‘affirmative therapy’
- These harms include:
 - (a) Lack of need for ‘affirmative therapy’ (the majority of confused children revert to an identity congruent with chromosomes through puberty).’



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- (b) The sustained structural effects of 'blockers' on the brain.
 - (c) The sustained effects of 'cross sex hormones' on the brain.
 - (d) Lack of evidence for sustained improvement in psychology, together with statistical evidence of adult suicide rate of 20-30 times higher in transgendered adults.
- With regard to adults, the Bill will deny the Human Right to seek and receive help with mental stress associated with unwanted sexual pre-occupations.

Comments attributable to Professor John Whitehall regarding the bill

Professor John Whitehall, paediatrician and National CMDFA Chair said 'The Bill is the most coercive intrusion in the Western world into the management of gender confusion in a child. It goes beyond medical personnel into the family and schools...involving anyone with influence in the child's life. All risk incarceration if they seek to avoid the established complications of so-called 'affirmative therapy' in expectation that a 'watchful waiting' approach with appropriate care for associated family dysfunction and treatment of co-morbid psychological disturbance will see the large majority of children orientate with their natal sex through puberty'

No other legislation will put a parent in gaol for attempting to taking a child across a state line in order to escape from obligatory imposition of sex hormones and the possibility of irretrievable surgery on its genitals. After reading available literature on the experimental nature of 'affirmation' and the rise of social contagion, what parent would want to live in Canberra?

Whitehall condemned the ACT Bill for 'mandating experimentation upon children'...a blatant transgression of Human Rights. And for threatening to



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put in gaol any parents who refused to submit their child to 'affirmative' intervention.

Regarding adults, he deplored the abrogation of the Human Right of an adult freely to seek and receive help with mental distress due to unwanted sexual pre-occupation. Instead of reducing the risk of suicide, condemnation of a distressed adult to a life of unwanted mental stress is likely to increase self harm. The ACT government has no right to impose the gender ideology of a few upon all its constituents.

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