

Queensland Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association Inc. (QPPA)

10th January 2020

Committee Secretary,
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention
Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Q4000
Email: health@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

RE: Submission regarding Conversion Therapies Health Legislation

We are writing on behalf of the *Queensland Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association Inc.* (QPPA).

The QPPA is the lead professional body for trained Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists in the state of Queensland. All practising QPPA members are governed by an ethical code and professional standards and must be registered with the appropriate regulatory body (e.g. AHPRA) or other relevant professional organisations.

The QPPA is affiliated with the *Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association of Australasia* (PPAA). This is the main organisation for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists within Australia and New Zealand.

We absolutely support the spirit of the Queensland Government's proposed legislation to ban "conversion therapy". The matter of this Bill introduced by the Minister for Health the Hon. Dr. Steven Miles MP only came to our attention two days ago.

"Conversion/reparative therapy" is an umbrella term for a group of interventions which aim to alter the sexual orientation or sexual identity of individuals to what is considered a heterosexual identity/orientation.

We recognise and acknowledge that such treatments have had abusive and disastrous effects on gay and transgender people. Several international organisations have investigated the use of "conversion therapy" (e.g. the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry, UK Council for Psychotherapy, Royal College of Psychiatrists, American Psychiatric Association, and the American Psychological Society). They have concluded that there are potentially serious psychological consequences as a result of the use of "conversion therapies", including suicide.

Together with these organisations, the QPPA strongly condemns the use of these forms of "therapy".

However, we were puzzled and concerned to note that *psychoanalysis* was listed as a conditioning technique along with aversion therapy and hypnotherapy.

Psychoanalysis is not a conditioning technique. Psychoanalysis, of all the psychotherapeutic schools, places great value on the individual’s subjective experience.

Historically, it must be noted that medical, psychological and psychoanalytically-oriented professions – as well as the general community – have viewed same sex attraction and non-binary gender identity as pathological in nature. This view of pathologizing same sex attraction and non-binary gender identity is now completely outdated within current psychoanalytic thinking, research and practice.

Contemporary psychoanalytic psychotherapy practice aims to support a person in getting to know themselves and in developing their own personal sense of identity.

We wish to ensure the legislation review committee know that ideas related to “Conversion Therapy” have no place in contemporary psychoanalysis, psychoanalytic theory and ethical practice.

We would therefore respectfully request that the reference to “psychoanalysis” be removed from the list of conditioning techniques.

We would be happy to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully



Penelope Love

President of the Queensland Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association Inc.

On behalf of the Management Committee:

Dr Peter Hengstberger

Meredith Waugh

Sally Young

Kerrie Collings-Silvey

Chel Quinn