

Laura Ives Hicks

From: Walker.MLC, Brian <Brian.Walker.MLC@mp.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 September 2024 10:34 AM
To: Environment and Public Affairs Committee
Subject: RE: Petition No. 143 – Calling for a Parliamentary Inquiry into the treatment of children suffering from gender dysphoria

Categories: Petitions

Dear Peter and Laura,

Thank you for the reminder to contribute to this petition. It must be said as an initial statement that I, personally, do not have any particular position to the topic. The call for an enquiry states:

1. Believe that children suffering from gender dysphoria deserve the very best evidence based care.

This statement is an incontrovertible fact.

2. Note that in February 2022, Sweden’s National Board of Health and Welfare issued a national policy update ending the practice of prescribing puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones to gender dysphoric patients under 18 years of age.

This is a statement of fact. It is based on expert medical and psychiatric/psychological insights and deserves careful consideration. In particular I reference my second reading speech to the recent Births Marriages Deaths Amendment, where I outlined the aspects that matter to practising healthcare practitioners. There are serious issues that need to be addressed but such a debate must be led by the appropriate and qualified healthcare practitioners, NOT by politicians.

3. Note that the on March 12, 2024, England's National Health Service (NHS) has ceased prescribing puberty blockers for children and young people with gender dysphoria or gender incongruence, saying there is “not enough evidence to support the safety or clinical effectiveness” of puberty-suppressing hormones.

Another statement of fact and the same comments apply to this item as the previous.

4. Note that leaked files from World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) published on March 4th, 2024 by US-based think tank Environmental Progress reveal that WPATH’s published standards of care are not evidence based and consistently violate medical ethics and informed consent.

This point must give the committee cause for concern and I would strongly recommend that consideration be given to the thought that a violation of ethics had to be uncovered by leaking documents that so far have been hidden from the voting public.

5. Note that the treatment protocols used by the Perth Children’s Hospital Gender Diversity Service are based on AusPATH recommendations for treatment, which in turn are based on WPATH standards of care

If point 5 is correct, then the extension into life in Western Australia demands specific thought and consultation.

6. Call on the Legislative Council to instruct the Environment & Public Affairs Committee to inquire into and report on young people seeking assistance for gender dysphoria in Western Australia and related matters, with particular reference to: (a) the health care and related support services provided, and options available, to children, adolescents and young adults seeking services for gender dysphoria or other gender identity related issues in Western Australia, and their parents, guardians and families; (b) the role, rights and obligations of

parents and guardians of minors seeking services for gender dysphoria or other gender identity related issues; (c) the public funding of health and education services in Western Australia in relation to sex-related and gender-related issues; and (d) any other related matters.

If we look at this, the substantive part of the petition, and recognise that the concerns of the petitioners are fuelled by specific religious concerns, and if we then separate such views from the facts – as I believe is appropriate to do – then there are major grounds for clear, expert, unbiased assessments that match the standard of reviews in the UK and Scandinavia, to inform us as politicians of the safest steps and forming a view of what best practice actually consists of. That best practice can then inform legislation that guides our society.

7. Request that the Environment & Public Affairs Committee authorise the disclosure or publication, as it sees fit, of any evidence or documents presented to the committee prior to such evidence being presented to the council.

This last point is simple common sense that will allay fears of the broader community and hopefully also satisfy the concerns of this and similar religious groups.

Best wishes,

Brian



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Acknowledgement of Country The Office of the Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

From: Environment and Public Affairs Committee <env@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2024 12:43 PM

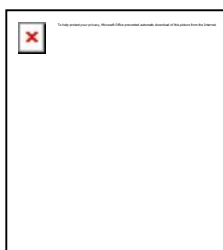
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Good afternoon

Please find attached correspondence from the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs.

Kind regards



Laura Ives Hicks | Committee Clerk

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