

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family
Violence Prevention Committee
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To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) welcomes the opportunity to respond to Queensland's Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

The APS is the premier professional association for psychologists in Australia, representing more than 24,000 members. Psychology is a discipline that encompasses the many facets of human experience and functioning at individual, family and social levels. A key goal of the APS is to actively contribute psychological knowledge for the promotion and enhancement of community wellbeing.

In this submission, the APS is specifically responding to the amendment relating to the Public Health Act 2005 which seeks to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy by health service providers in Queensland.

As indicated in the Bill's explanatory notes (p.4), the APS strongly opposes any form of mental health practice that seeks to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The APS is a professional organisation committed to evidence-based practice, and the research evidence clearly shows that conversion practices are harmful to **all** people subjected to them. We refer the Committee to the [APS Position Statement on Psychological Practices that Attempt to Change Sexual Orientation](#) and [APS Information Sheet on Mental Health Practices that Affirm Transgender People's Experiences](#) for more detailed information.

Given the evidence, the APS believes it should be unlawful for health service providers to perform conversion therapy to anyone, regardless of age or background, in Queensland or in any other Australian jurisdiction.

The APS would be happy to provide any further information upon request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances Mirabelli', with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Frances Mirabelli
Chief Executive Officer