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**From:** John and Kim Holmes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 January 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** Law Reform  
**Subject:** Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity- Discussion Paper

As a long term resident of Tasmania and also as a practising Christian, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the above mentioned paper that relates to banning and criminalising so called "gay conversion therapy" in Tasmania.

Some of my concerns are:-

1. This type of legislation promotes and supports the premise that people who experience un-wanted same sex attraction or sexual identity issues, will be effectively banned from seeking any form of counselling ( including prayer) from trusted counsellors, including parents. Any person giving advice or counselling would be undertaking a criminal act and subject to draconian criminal penalties, simply for offering such assistance.
2. The above situation is made worse when it involves adolescents, when they may be struggling with gender identity issues, and without any recourse to sound counselling and advice, they may effectively be funnelled into irreversible hormone treatments and gender reassignment surgery, that frequently result in long term mental health issues.
3. This type of legislation will effectively place an extreme legal risk on religious institutions and organisations, as they will have no choice but to halt all ministry and contact with LGBTI people, which ironically will only further disadvantage them. An absurdly counter productive law.

Finally I contend that this type of legislation is dangerous, draconian and totally unnecessary, unless of course the wider agenda is to shut down all faith based and other groups from offering much needed and real help to people who are seeking such.

Thank You  
John Holmes

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Sent from my iPad