
From: Jess Leach [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 28 January 2021 4:53 PM
To: Law Reform
Subject: Re: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conversion Practices Community Consultation

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To whom it may concern,

As someone who works with young people and sees the many pressures they face, I am deeply concerned about efforts to ban conversations with minors around the very important issues of gender dysphoria and gender transition. I interact daily with teenagers who have been deeply affected and confused in many areas of their lives (including their sexual and gender identity) because of numerous factors, including but not limited to family violence, family breakdown, social media and peer pressure. Teenagers in these situations need to hear different perspectives and have the freedom to speak about this issue without others fearing criminal action.

If a minor can have a conversation that positively suggests a re-orientation of their sexuality or gender (i.e. encourages them to explore a same-sex relationship or gender transition), it seems to make sense that they should also be able to have conversations that encourage them to consider **not** engaging in a same-sex relationship or gender transition.

In light of the developmental processes still at work in a teenager - which is acknowledged by law through there being limits on their right to drive, to vote, to marry etc - it is understandable that many people feel concerned that the law would not only allow teenagers to make life-altering decisions about gender transition but would also prevent conversations taking place about that important topic.

Kind regards,
Jessica Leach

[REDACTED]