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**From:** Luke Roberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 23 January 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** Law Reform  
**Subject:** Submission re: Sexual orientation and gender identity conversion practices issues paper.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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I am a father of four, teacher and Christian.

The proposals in the document relating to sexual orientation and gender identity conversion practices concern me greatly. Having worked with high school and college aged students for over 20 years, I appreciate the difficulties young people face going through puberty. During this time they need support from caring adults and their community. I feel that the balance of this support is under threat when parents, teachers or health professionals could be charged with a criminal act simply by questioning a young person's decision regarding hormone treatment or irreversible gender reassignment surgery.

In schools in churches and in the community, most people's desire is to care for young people and see them thrive. The proposals are all based on the false assumption that harmful 'conversion practices' are being used against young LGBT people in Australia. I agree that history has shown that shock therapy and chemical castration should not be part of a caring society. But what are we learning from science about the mental health effects of hormone treatment and gender reassignment surgery? We need to care for our young people by fully informing them of all the consequences before they embark on any processes which have the potential to irreversibly alter their physical body.

Please do not proceed with this unnecessary proposal. Silencing discussion around these matters does not make us more scientific or more caring.

Sincerely yours,

Luke

Luke Roberts  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]