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From: Lauren Riske [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2021 9:11 AM
To: Law Reform
Subject: Submission re: Sexual orientation and gender identity conversion practices issues paper

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Hi,

My name is Lauren Riske. I am a parent who is concerned about the proposed bill that would ban gay conversion therapy in Tasmania. I am very concerned about the impact that this may have on my children.

If one of my children struggled with their gender identity or sexuality, and they wanted to seek counselling to help them match their gender identity to their biological sex, this bill would prevent them from getting that help. It is wrong that medical professionals and counselors should be prevented from helping a person who wants that help. The truth is that most cases of adolescents struggling with differences between their gender and biological sex resolve. (See *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders V*, Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association, 2013, 454-455.) It would be better to have provide someone struggling with their gender all options, including the opportunity to reconcile their gender identity with their biological sex.

It is criminal to remove a person's right to choose to seek the help that they desire. Please do not bring this bill to parliament or legislate against a person's right to choose.

Thank you,

Lauren Riske
[REDACTED]