

21st February, 2020

Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk,
Premier and Minister for Trade
PO Box 15185
City East, QLD. 4002
Email: Thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au

Dear Premier

RE: Submission regarding Conversion Therapies Health Legislation from Queensland Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association Inc. (QPAA)

I write on behalf of the Australian Confederation of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapies to endorse the submission of the QPPA in relation to the proposed **Conversion Therapies Health Legislation** before the Queensland Parliament.

The Confederation represents the four largest organizations for practitioners of psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy. These organizations conduct training programs to international standards and maintain high standards of practice and professional development of their members. The QPAA is an affiliate of one of our member associations, the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Association of Australia.

The Confederation is in full agreement with banning any form of Conversion Therapy and we support the views expressed by the QPAA submission. We emphasize that any coercion or any type of attempts to influence clients in regard to their sexual orientation or any other matter is incompatible with the ethical values of our practice and would be viewed as a significant breach of practice ethics and if informed would lead to investigation of the practitioner by our associations.

Like most other approaches to therapy, psychoanalytic treatments were applied in the early to mid-twentieth century, when some sexual orientations were seen as an expression of psychopathology. Since then, however, psychoanalytic thinking has consistently been in the forefront of de-pathologizing different sexual orientations.

The idea of “conversion therapy” is antithetical to the practice of psychoanalytic therapies, which emphasize empowerment of clients to become free to decide the form in which they wish to express themselves in all areas of their life, including their sexual orientation.

While we are in agreement with the banning of conversion therapies, we wish to state that the inclusion of psychoanalysis or psychoanalytic therapies in the list of “conversion therapies” is anachronistic, misleading and inappropriate.

We support the QPPA submission and would be pleased to provide further information on this matter and the treatment of people with gender-related issues by our members if required.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Gordon, PhD, FAPS, FCCLP.

ACPP President

921 Station Street, Box Hill North, Victoria. 3129.