



Current and Emerging Threats to TGD Human Rights

**A Submission to the Australian
Human Rights Commission**

About LGB Alliance Australia

Our Vision

Lesbians, gay men and bisexuals living free from discrimination or disadvantage based on their sexual orientation.

Our Mission

To advance lesbian, gay and bisexual rights

We advance the interests of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, and stand up for our right to live as same-sex attracted people without discrimination or disadvantage.

We will ensure that the voices of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are heard in all public and political discussions affecting our lives.

To highlight the dual discrimination faced by lesbians

We amplify the voices of lesbians and highlight the dual discrimination experienced by lesbians as women who are same-sex attracted in a male-dominated society.

To protect children who may grow up to be lesbian, gay, or bisexual

We work to protect children from harmful, unscientific ideologies that may lead them to believe either their personality or their body is in need of changing. Any child growing up to be lesbian, gay or bisexual has the right to be happy and confident about their sexuality and who they are.

To promote free speech on lesbian, gay and bisexual issues

We promote freedom of speech and informed dialogue on issues concerning the rights of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. We assert that different opinions, even those we may disagree with, should be heard as part of the public debate.

You can find out more about us on our website – [REDACTED]

You can get in contact with us on email – [REDACTED]

Follow us on social media:

www.facebook.com/lgballianceaustralia

www.twitter.com/lgballiance_aus

www.youtube.com/c/lgballianceaustralia

Contents

Subject Matter Expertise	3
Terms of Reference	4
Opposition to Claims Made by the LGBTQIA+ Lobby	4
Mounting Medical Evidence from across Europe	5
Australia's Response to the NHS Review	6
WPATH - A Medical Scandal in the Making	7
The Issue of Consent	8
Gay and Lesbian Self-determination	9
LGB Association and Assembly	9
Loss of Lesbian Spaces	10
Conclusion	11
References	12

Subject Matter Expertise

LGB Alliance Australia advocates for the rights and well-being of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals. We have over 2,000 active members and our organisation plays a crucial role in advocating for sex-based rights, evidence-based medicine and the highest standards of support for gender non-conforming children, young people and adults.

Many members of the LGB Alliance Australia have lived experience as children and young people of body dysmorphia, social exclusion, family rejection and homophobic attacks. This led many members to experience internalised homophobia, confusion about our sexed bodies and to question our sexual orientation. Having made that complex journey the members who make up LGB Alliance Australia have a critical role to support and advocate for children and young people experiencing gender incongruence, body dysmorphia and internalised homophobia.

LGB Alliance Australia members include de-transitioners and desisters who can attest to the harms done to them as a result of being encouraged into 'affirmative care' without due consideration to their experiences of trauma, autism, internalised homophobia, complex family issues and other compounding issues.

Terms of Reference

The AHRC intend to further investigate the 'facts' that there has been an 'anti-trans mobilisation' that 'threatens TGD rights' and that this mobilisation is linked to the publication or dissemination of dis- and misinformation by 'radicalised extremists'.

LGB Alliance Australia along with many other organisations are concerned that the AHRC is seeking a review with a pre-determined outcome; namely to *lead the witness* to an outcome already decided to justify the premise of the inquiry.

LGB Alliance Australia would ask that these 'threats' be substantiated and verified by means of independent evidence **prior** to any inquiry.

Opposition to Claims Made by the LGBTQIA+ Lobby

LGB Alliance Australia are concerned by some of the claims made by the transgender lobby and LGBTQIA+ advocacy groups - in particular claims that children may be 'born in the wrong body' and that puberty blockers are safe and reversible.

[see the NHS findings below]

LGB Alliance Australia members are themselves gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender people and any concerns LGB Alliance express are driven by our insistence that:

1. All gender diverse, homosexual and bi-sexual people deserve the highest standards of medical care that is evidence-based, peer-reviewed and best practice.
2. All children are allowed to grow up free from an ideology that tells them they have a 'gendered soul' or may be 'born in the wrong' body.
3. LGB Alliance believes that gender ideology contributes to increased levels of anxiety, poor mental health outcomes, body dysmorphia and body dissociation for children and young people.

LGB Alliance Australia's views are supported by our diverse and inclusive membership and our lived experience.

Trans activist groups label LGB Alliance, 'transphobic', 'anti-trans' and a 'hate group'.

These false accusations are attempts to silence and isolate the LGB Alliance Australia from contributing to the most important topic of our times – how to support young people to navigate a complex range of challenges as they develop into adulthood.

LGB Alliance Australia are deeply concerned that this review is a further attempt to stifle debate and to limit all of the rights above women's rights, rights to single-sex spaces, the right of freedom of assembly, the right to free speech, the right to our own language.

Mounting Medical Evidence from across Europe

1. The UK NHS has recently withdrawn approval for the use of puberty blockers for young people after a review [under GRADE evaluation system] found there was "**not enough evidence**" that puberty blockers are safe or effective.
2. NHS England's decision follows the publication of the **Cass Review** into gender services which found a spike in referrals (from 50 in 2009 to 2,500 in 2020 or **nearly 5,000 per cent**), high rates of neurodivergence and significant influence by peers and social media.
3. Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, the UK and France have all changed course and are rapidly restricting the medicalisation for children and young people.
4. The National Academy of Medicine in France has cautioned medical practitioners that hormonal and surgical treatments carry significant health risk and that it is not possible to distinguish a durable trans identity from a passing phase of an adolescent's development.
5. Many international studies including the original Dutch Study as well as the Tavistock have confirmed that the majority of adolescents referred to gender services are same-sex attracted. But since the widespread introduction of puberty blockers and gender medicine, young lesbian and gay children have been experiencing '**heterosexualising**' conversion therapy whereby a tomboyish girl is told she is really a 'boy' and an effeminate boy is told he is really a 'girl' and are put on a medical pathway.

Australia's Response to the NHS Review

Following the NHS decision to reverse course on puberty blockers, the Victorian Human Rights Commission has **deleted its public claim** that a parent refusing to support a child's request for puberty blocker drugs is **breaking the law**. Until recently the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission stated that such a refusal would be illegal under the state's Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021.

The NHS' decision provides a clear case that prescribing puberty blockers is itself a potential human rights abuse and may place children on a fast-track to life-long medicalisation.

AusPath's response:

"It is our opinion that the NHS England is undertaking an enormous and unprecedented public health experiment on children with no safeguards".

The studies that formed part of the NHS review were evaluated under the gold standard GRADE system - yet the NHS found that **not one study** promoting the use of puberty blockers met the strict criteria.

If AusPath's advice to clinicians that puberty blockers are 'safe' for children their advice needs to be backed up by scientific evidence that meets or exceeds that of the NHS. Without such evidence, AusPath cannot be seen as an expert advisor that uses the highest ethical standards of care for Australian youth.

WPATH - A Medical Scandal in the Making

The practice of gender medicine by Australian doctors and clinicians depends on the advice and guidance provided by AusPath. While Auspath is itself modelled on the US professional body WPATH, promoted and advertised as the world's 'leading professional body' on the practice of gender medicine.

But the recent whistle-blower leak of the WPATH files [\[link below\]](#) provides damning evidence that WPATH is an ideologically activist organisation that promotes medical experimentation on vulnerable children and young people.

In WPATH's Standards of Care 8, **[recently deleted from WPATH's website]**, WPATH states that the next 'identity' group is **eunuchs**; promotes surgeries to remove the testes of young males; advocates for 'nullification' surgeries for non-binary people and for 'clients' to be offered both a neo-vagina and a phalloplasty so that a person might be both 'genders' in one body.

The WPATH files state that only one young person was refused gender surgery by the clinicians because they were in active psychosis, despite the fact that some were suffering from multiple personality disorders, schizophrenia, life-threatening cancer and complex mental health issues.

The Issue of Consent

There has been much insistence by trans activist groups that children are able to consent to 'gender-affirming' their claims are themselves undermined by WPATH clinicians themselves:

"I'm unaware of an individual claiming ability to orgasm when they were blocked at Tanner 2" (the beginning of puberty)".

Dr Marci Bowers, WPATH President

It's always a good theory that you talk about fertility preservation with a 14-year-old, but I know I'm talking to a blank wall.'

WPATH Endocrinologist

"I think the thing you have to remember about kids is that we're often explaining these sorts of things to people who haven't even had biology in high school yet,"

Dan Metzger, WPATH Endocrinologist

It's like talking [about] diabetic complications with a 14-year-old. They don't care. They're not going to die. They're going to live forever, right? So I think when we're doing informed consent, that's still a big lacuna".

WPATH Clinician

"acknowledgment that de-transition exists even to a minor extent is considered off limits for many in our community,"

WPATH President Marci Bowers

Gender medicine is far from being 'settled science' on the contrary the WPATH files are incontrovertible proof that gender medicine is little more than a medical experiment with unknown outcomes and life-long consequences.

Gay and Lesbian Self-determination

In the space of a few years there has been dramatic shift in the way lesbians and gay men are described by LGBTQ organisations. In 2017 the phrase 'same sex' attracted was commonly used in relation to the 2017 marriage referendum. Just seven years later, it is common to hear lesbian and gay men accused of bigotry and 'anti trans hatred' if they refer to themselves as 'same sex' attracted. LGB people experience their sexual orientation as same-sex attracted, not 'same-gender attracted'. Many now describe this denial of same-sex attraction as the new homophobia. The word 'homosexual' is being written out of glossaries because it has the word 'sex' in it. The right to meaningful language is essential for minority groups. We believe that minority groups should be able to use language meaningful to them.

We seek reassurance that the AHRC would support the rights of LGB people to advocate to retain meaningful sex-based language and to right to define their sexuality in a meaningful way.

LGB Association and Assembly

LGB Alliance Australia members do not share the worldview of postmodernist queer theory. Organisations that used to represent LGB people have made the rapid shift to queer theory approaches to deconstruct sex-based categories. Many LGB people want to associate with those who share a sex-realist understanding of homosexuality.

The right to peaceful assembly and association is an essential component of democracy. The United Nations states that the right to freedom of association involves the right of individuals to interact and organize among themselves to collectively express, promote, pursue and defend common interests. Despite this, LGB Alliance organisations have frequently been the target of accusations of extremist, anti-trans and hate speech, including unsubstantiated and slanderous accusations.

LGB Alliance Australia believe that the AHRC inquiry demonstrates a dangerous overreach of an organisation whose purpose is to protect the human rights of every Australian including lesbians, gay men and bi-sexual people.

Loss of Lesbian Spaces

Since the early 2000's lesbians around Australia have gone underground in order to meet in single-sex spaces. Mainstream LGBTIQ+ organisations now deem, under the mantle of "diversity and inclusion", that lesbians and gay men must congregate and socialise in compulsory mixed-sex spaces. There has been no consultation or negotiation regarding this imposition and the LGB are labelled as 'transphobic' for wanting single-sex spaces. LGB have to apply for single-sex exemptions in order to hold publicly advertised single-sex events. To date, every lesbian exemption has been refused and this has forced a thriving lesbian community go underground. There is a bitter irony to the fact that we can now legally get married, but we can no longer legally meet in single-sex spaces.

LGB Alliance Australia has documented the loss of a once thriving lesbian community in Victoria in the Lost Lesbian Spaces Project available at <https://www.lgballiance.org.au/lost-lesbian-space>

Australia is signed up to the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\)](#) and article 8(1)(a) of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\)](#) however Australia is breaking articles 21 and 22 by denying lesbians their right to freedom of assembly and association within their own cultural group. We are also being denied the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set down in article 19.

Conclusion

It is the position of the LGB Alliance Australia that rather than there being an 'anti-trans mobilisation' that threatens transgender rights or that mis- or dis-information is a threat from 'radicalised groups' - it is the trans lobby that has itself engaged in a long-term, well-funded and sophisticated strategy to silence debate and minimise the very real concerns regarding the social, psychological and health consequences of promoting gender ideology and gender medicine on young people.

The NHS which is the largest and most respected national health service in the world after conducting a two-year review of all the evidence concluded that for puberty suppressing hormones [PSH]

'... overall, there was no statistically significant difference in gender incongruence, mental health, body image and psychosocial functioning in children and adolescents treated with PSH. The quality of evidence for all these outcomes was assessed as very low certainty, with limited short-term and long-term safety data available. **PSH may, however, reduce the expected increase in lumbar or femoral bone density during puberty**'.

While WPATH, the organisation that is actively promoted by AusPath, ACON and the wider LGBTQIA+ lobby groups as the 'world-leading expert' in the field of gender medicine has been shown to promote experimental, unethical and pseudoscientific medicine.

LGBA Alliance believe the AHRC's inquiry is a significant case of overreach. The purpose of the AHRC is to protect the rights of all Australians to voice dissenting opinions, question new and experimental medical interventions on children and challenge ideologies that seek to impose themselves on society.

LGB Alliance Australia will be submitting an FOI request for all evidence relating to how and why the AHRC has instigated this inquiry. LGB Alliance will ask for full disclosure of all correspondence regarding which party or parties are responsible for agreeing the scope, and which external organisations, bodies, persons or external agencies have been consulted with or sought to influence the inquiry itself.

When there is a Royal Commission into the impact of 'gender affirming' medical practice on Australian children we trust the AHRC will be seen to have remained independent and ethical in the way it has conducted this inquiry.

References

Barnes, H. (2024, March 10). Why disturbing leaks from US gender group WPATH ring alarm bells in the NHS. *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/mar/09/disturbing-leaks-from-us-gender-group-wpath-ring-alarm-bells-in-nhs>

Cass, H. (n.d.). *Independent review of gender identity services for children and young people*.

<https://cass.independent-review.uk/>

Campbell, D. (2024, March 13). Children to stop getting puberty blockers at gender identity clinics, says NHS England. *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/mar/12/children-to-stop-getting-puberty-blockers-at-gender-identity-clinics-says-nhs-england>

Hughs, M. (2024, March 4). The WPATH files: pseudoscientific surgical and hormonal experiments on children, adolescents, and vulnerable adults. *Environmental Progress*.

<https://environmentalprogress.org/big-news/wpath-files>

Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission. (n.d.). Have you experienced a change or suppression practice? <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/have-you-experienced-a-change-or-suppression-practice/>