From: Kieran Hart
To: TGD Submissions
Subject: Gender marker change in NSW
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To whom it may concern:

My name is Kieran Hart. I am a urologist who specialises in gender affirming surgery. I am one of only a few surgeons in this country offering this service. I am also one of the highest volume gender affirming surgeons in the world. This background, I believe, makes me qualified to talk on this matter.

This issue highlights the inequality that exists for citizens who are born in NSW regarding changing their birth certificate to reflect their affirmed gender. Currently, these citizens need to have surgery to be able to legally change their gender. This is an antiquated approach to what is now known to be a highly complex issue.

Firstly, every other state and territory in Australia does not require this, and as such, a proportion of Australian citizens are treated unfairly.

Secondly, this approach shares similarities to the practice in several middle eastern countries where patients feel the need to undergo genital surgery so as to not be persecuted for their sexual preference.

Thirdly, gender dysphoria is so much more than wanting genital surgery. I've seen plenty of patients where their dysphoria did not pertain to their genitals, but if they were born in NSW, they would be required to undergo surgery to change their gender.

Lastly, undergoing genital surgery is costly and time consuming. The NSW government (or any state/territory government for that matter) does not currently fund the surgery that is deemed necessary by the registry for births, deaths and marriages for a person to change their gender. This in itself seems somewhat hypocritical.

All of these issues breach these patients' human rights on multiple levels.

As a doctor, I have an ethical issue with operating on patients that may be undergoing an operation they don't particularly need or want, but feel they should so they can change their gender.

The legislation needs to be changed urgently before any more patients come to harm.

Regards

Dr Kieran Hart
Urologist
Canberra, ACT

Sent from my iPhone