

The Hon Michael Daley MP
Attorney General



Ref: EAP23/12931
Petition Ref: 523

Ms Helen Minnican
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: helen.minnican@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Minnican,

Petition - Mrs Tanya Davies MP - Refer the Proposed Conversion Therapy Legislation to a Joint Parliamentary Select Committee to ensure that the Government honours its Election Promises

I write in response to the petition presented on 10 October 2023 by Mrs Tanya Davis MP, Member for Badgerys Creek, for the Legislative Assembly to refer forthcoming Government legislation to ban LGBTQ+ conversion practices to a Joint Parliamentary Select Committee.

The NSW Government has promised to ban 'LGBTQ+ conversion practices'. 'LGBTQ+ conversion practices' refer to harmful practices that seek to change or suppress a person's identity and are founded on the misconception that LGBTQ+ people are broken, wrong or need fixing. To honour this commitment, the NSW Government is in the process of developing its legislation to bring before the NSW Parliament.

To develop a legislative model that is right for NSW, the Ministry of Health and the Department of Communities and Justice have worked with a government working group to lead a targeted, confidential consultation with a range of stakeholders, including victim-survivors, LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, faith-based organisations, parental rights groups and legal, government, education, and health stakeholders. Almost 150 organisations were engaged in the consultation work between 31 July and 25 August 2023.

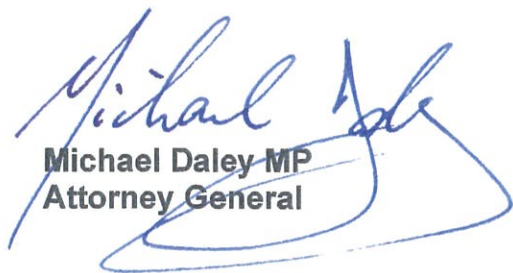
Ahead of the consultation, the NSW Government was clear that neither taking offence at the teachings of a religious leader nor expressing a religious belief through a sermon will be banned. A consenting individual will remain able to seek guidance through prayer. This remains the NSW Government's position and will be reflected in the upcoming legislation.

Moreover, the NSW Government is not seeking to intervene in the ethical or professional codes and standards set out in existing regulations and by relevant health professional organisations. Health practitioners have existing obligations to act ethically and in accordance with professional codes and standards. Any ban on conversion practices is not intended to outlaw ethical medical practices that occur in accordance with established regulatory codes and guidelines.

NSW Government legislation to ban conversion practices will be introduced in 2023, and the final legislation will be informed by careful consideration to ensure the ban strikes the right balance with legitimate religious and cultural practices.

I thank the Member for Badgerys Creek and the signatories of this petition for their interest in this reform.

Sincerely,



Michael Daley MP
Attorney General

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