

Response ID ANON-MGJS-WGN8-N

Submitted to MSAC Consultation Survey - Application 1754

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Privacy and Consent

Consent

I have read the above text on how the department will handle personal information included in my response to this MSAC consultation survey. I consent to the department collecting, using, and disclosing my personal information, including any sensitive information, as described above.:

Yes

Contact details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Anna Kerr

2 What is your email address?

Email:

anna@feministlegal.org

3 What is your phone number?

Phone number:

0402467476

4 What is your postcode?

Postcode:

2130

5 Providing Input

I am providing input on behalf of a consumer group or organisation. Consumer organisations are not-for-profit organisations representing the interests of healthcare consumers, their families and carers.

6 If you are providing input on behalf of a group or organisation, what is the name of the group or organisation and what is your role with the organisation?

Name:

Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.

Questions for Consumer Organisations

1 What is the organisation's experience with the proposed health service or technology, or with the related health condition?

Write your answer below.:

Our organisation has been approached for assistance by many women who deeply regret gender affirming surgical procedures, including mastectomies and hysterectomies, as well as the associated cross-sex hormonal treatments. We have put a number of these women in touch with plaintiff law firms and as a result there are several medical negligence claims in progress, with one of these cases having been reported publicly (the case of Jay Langadinos). These women are often referred to as 'detransitioners' or 'desisters'. Other women we have spoken to are reluctant to commence legal proceedings out of fear of making their regret public and being ostracized within their communities. Due to the complex psychological profile of many of these clients, with some of them reporting suicidal thoughts linked to their regret, these are difficult legal cases to progress. Others are hampered in bringing their proceedings by time limit issues. Most, if not all, of the women to whom we have spoken, report histories of trauma and co-morbidities that were not adequately addressed before they were fast-tracked into taking hormones and having surgeries. While they are aware the harm they have suffered cannot be reversed, these clients are often keen to raise awareness so that other young women are not harmed in the same way.

2 How does the health condition that the proposed health service or technology relates to affect individuals, families, and carers?

Write your answer below.:

Some clients have reported to us a sense of profound loss when they confront the fact that they will never be able to have children or breastfeed. There is anger that they were misled into believing that transitioning would result in greater social acceptance when in fact it has made their lives more difficult and has resulted in increased isolation. Clients also report a long list of physical symptoms resulting from gender affirming surgeries including significant

gynecological pain and symptoms associated with entering premature menopause including osteoporosis, as well as concerns with thinning hair consistent with male pattern baldness, unwanted body hair, increased body odour and deepened voice resulting from the associated use of cross-sex hormones. We are also aware of extraordinarily disturbing accounts from other detransitioners of the complications associated with gender affirming surgeries such as phalloplasty.

3 How is the health condition that the proposed health service or technology relates to currently managed in Australia? That is, prevented, diagnosed, treated and/or monitored?

Write your answer below.:

Clients complain that once they express regret about their transition, they cease to receive support and feel abandoned by the health system. There is no funding for gender critical organisations and indeed thanks to so-called conversion ban legislation, it is becoming legally hazardous for health professionals and others to take any approach other than adhering to the gender affirmation model. As a result it is becoming virtually impossible for detransitioners to find appropriate counselling and support. Any gender questioning individual is currently fast tracked onto a gender affirming medical pathway and deprived of the opportunity to deeply explore childhood trauma and other factors likely to have contributed to their psychological condition.

4 Is the population(s) for the proposed health service or technology appropriate?

Write your answer below.:

From our experience, those who are being targeted for these gender affirming services have a history of unresolved childhood trauma and mental health conditions that have not been properly investigated or addressed prior to recommending them for surgery. It is extremely inappropriate to be referring young women for mastectomies and hysterectomies while they are clearly in a state of adolescent angst. No one who is struggling with mental health issues and who thinks transitioning will resolve their psychosocial difficulties should be referred for these surgeries. Members of the LGB community have advised us that young gay and lesbian people are frequently opting for gender affirming surgeries as they struggle to come to terms with their emerging sexual orientation. There is significant concern that members of the gay and lesbian community are being systemically sterilised in this way. Clearly not appropriate!

5 Is the proposed approach to delivery of the health service or technology appropriate?

Write your answer below.:

No - 'gender affirming' surgeries are fraudulent by their very nature since ultimately it is not scientifically possible to change sex and to mislead individuals in this manner is unethical in the extreme. The provision of these surgical procedures on this pretext will result in a flood of litigation against not only the doctors responsible, but also against the State for condoning the mutilation and sterilisation of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. The encouragement for young people to use puberty blockers, binders, tuckers and cross-sex hormones, thus causing irreversible physical changes to their bodies which then puts them on a path to surgery is completely inappropriate. With each step there is a hope that they will find happiness with the next medical intervention, only to discover they have been misled and exploited for the financial gain of the medical-industrial complex.

6 What is the expected effect of the proposed health service or technology (if supported) on the lives of people with the health condition, their families, and carers?

Write your answer below.:

The expected effect on people is untold pain and suffering culminating in inevitable litigation. Even individuals who initially claim euphoria on gender transition, in subsequent years provide a very different report to their lawyers. Some of our clients have been outspoken trans activists in the past, only to eventually reach a very different and painful realisation about the impact of the gender affirming surgeries to which they have been subjected. Most however do not dare to tell their stories publicly due to fear of being labelled 'tru scum' and subjected to abuse and ostracism within their communities.

7 Are there disadvantages to the proposed health service or technology, if supported and implemented as proposed?

Write your answer below.:

There are only disadvantages. The only advantages are for those unconscionable providers of pharmaceutical and medical services who stand to be enriched by having these gender surgeries further normalised and funded by the public purse.

8 Does the organisation support public funding for the health service or technology, as it is proposed to be delivered?

Do not support

Write your answer below.:

For all the reasons provided above. As human rights lawyers, we care about the human rights of the young and otherwise vulnerable individuals who will be exploited and harmed by publicly funding these 'gender affirming' surgeries - when they should instead be outlawed. We are outraged that in view of the findings of the Cass Review in the UK, that the Australian Government would even consider funding these surgeries which will inevitably further expose them to liability for their role in facilitating the fraudulent sex change industry and allowing this global medical scandal to unfold.

Next Steps

For all respondents

1 Is there anything that you have not mentioned elsewhere that you would like to tell us about?

Additional comments:

Our members are in regular contact with us about their concerns about the evils of gender affirming medical interventions. We run regular monthly webinars where these issues are discussed. Many of our members are signatories to the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights. For example, Article 9 states:

Children should receive accurate information about human biology and reproduction, and not gender stereotyping through their education. Children should not be subjected to the use of drugs and surgery for 'gender reassignment'. The Declaration has 38,647 individual signatures from 160 countries in collaboration with 540 organizations. We appreciate that this application relates to gender affirmation surgeries in adults, but we have a number of clients who underwent these surgeries in their early twenties having been indoctrinated with gender identity ideology throughout their teen years. A few years on and they are distraught about having made this decision while still so young. This needs to stop.

If you would like to upload a file for this survey, you can do so below.

File upload:

No file uploaded

2 How did you hear about this survey? Select as many boxes as apply. (Optional)

From a support group or other consumer organisation., From a treating doctor or other health care provider., From friends or family., From a colleague.

Write your answer below.:

3 Do you have any suggestions on ways to improve this survey? (Optional)

Write your answer below.:

Statement of interests

Declaration of Interest Statement

No interests

Description of interests: