

13 January 2014

Committee on the Health Care Complaints Commission
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Committee

Inquiry into the promotion of false or misleading health-related information or practices

I write to make a submission about the forced sterilisation and forced medical treatment of intersex people.

The Organisation Intersex International (OII) has raised with me serious concerns about systemic discrimination and medical treatment. I share community concern that intersex community members should be protected from medical experimentation, forced sterilization and unnecessary treatment that has no health benefit.

OII Australia reports that every single member of their group has experienced non-consensual medical intervention, including pressure to conform to gender norms and to be a "real man" or "real woman"; involuntary sterilisation and/or clitoris removal or reduction as an infant, child or adolescent; medical and familial pressure to take hormone treatment; medical and familial pressure to undertake genital "normalisation" surgery; surgical intervention without informed consent, including "normalising" surgery; disclosure of non-relevant medical data to third parties without consent and being repeatedly exposed to large numbers of medical students.

All these factors can have serious and longstanding physical and psychological health impacts.

I share the view that intersex people should not be forced into medical procedures or treatment without consent, and that their consent be required for all treatment. Intersex people should be treated with the same dignity and respect as all others.

The 2013 Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Involuntary or coerced sterilisation of intersex people in Australia recommended changes to the process and guidelines for medical procedures directed to intersex people. I refer the committee to the report and its recommendations: [www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary Business/Committees/Senate/Community Affairs/Involuntary Sterilisation/Sec Report/index](http://www.apf.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Community_Affairs/Involuntary_Sterilisation/Sec_Report/index)

I ask that the Committee hear directly with intersex people and make recommendations to protect them from harmful and inappropriate treatment.

Yours sincerely

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

