

Questions without Notice

Name: Hon Meg Webb MLC

Questions:

Noting that May 17 will mark one year since the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute (TLRI) recommended a legislative ban on LGBTIQ+ conversion practices, an announcement which was followed by a commitment from the Premier to introduce legislation to implement the TLRI's recommendations, can the government:

1. Advise why after one-year, draft legislation has not yet been made available for comment?
2. Provide an update on the progress of this draft legislation and a timeline for the overdue reform?

Further, is the government:

3. Aware that QLD, the ACT and Victoria all have implemented conversion bans and that WA, SA and NSW have all committed to a ban on conversion practices and are developing legislation?
4. Concerned about the possibility of Tasmania being the last state in the nation to progress these reforms, and potentially becoming a haven for conversion practices? And
5. In agreement that the longer these reforms are delayed, the more potential there is for conversion practices to be inflicted on yet more vulnerable Tasmanians?

Answered by: Hon Leonie Hiscutt MLC
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Answers:

Our Government wants Tasmania to be a place where everyone feels valued, included, encouraged and supported to be the best they can be.

The Attorney-General and I have each considered the Tasmania Law Reform Institute's Report and have met personally with people who have been subjected to conversion practices in the past. We have always acknowledged the harm and distress that these practices have caused.

We are aware that other jurisdictions have introduced various laws in relation to this matter. The Tasmanian Law Reform Institute has looked into this matter to consider options and areas that might need review in terms of our laws.

It is a complex matter, and it is important we get this right.

The Departments of Health and Justice have been undertaking policy analysis to properly evaluate the TLRI's recommendations and provide further advice to the Government around reform.

Our Government will always make decisions on the basis of expert advice and best practice.

While I have indicated we will be legislating to ban conversion practices, it is important the Tasmanian community have adequate opportunity to participate in consultation.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier
Minister for Health