

Submission
No 3

**INQUIRY INTO CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

Organisation:

Name: Dr Peter Baume

Telephone:

Date Received: 6/07/2006

Subject:

Summary

RECEIVED

6 JUL 2006

GPSC's

4th July 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Madam/Sir

This is a submission on the Correctional Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2006. Among the provisions of the Bill is one that seeks to forbid the provision of certain services for certain people.

The only proper way to give advice to a patient (I am medically qualified) is on the basis of their medical need. It is not right that a class of patients should be denied medical treatments that would be offered to other patients with the same medical need – as would happen here. The proposals in the Bill are unethical insofar as they seek to put the State between the doctor and the patient as regards the standard of care that is available.

This is a very slippery slope and the lessons of what happened when German doctors started on this slope in the 1930s should not be forgotten. The course proposed is very dangerous as others with different values might extend the provisions in the future in ways that none of us likes.

That the crimes were reprehensible does not alter the matter of principle. Bad people do not produce bad seed and eugenics is largely discredited today. Sterility was never part of the sentence imposed on these people.

As doctors we should treat them as we would treat anyone with the same medical need and the State should not make such treatment illegal. Any other course is reprehensible and dangerous.

Yours sincerely



Peter Baume