



21 February 2011

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RB;rp

The Honourable John Rau MP
Attorney-General
DX 336
ADELAIDE SA

Dear Mr Attorney

Summary Offences (Tattooing, Body Piercing and Body Modification) Amendment Bill 2011

I refer to my letter of 17 February 2011, providing comments on behalf of the Society in relation to the above Bill. The Society's Children and the Law Committee has prepared some additional comments, relating to the proposed requirement for young people to obtain parental consent to pierce the nose, navel, eyebrow and ear (other than the lobe) ("piercings"). It is to be noted these comments of concern do not extend to body modification procedures.

The requirement for a minor to obtain parental/guardian consent for the aforementioned piercings does not directly address the health concerns raised by the Government in its media release of 12 January 2011 which we understand were in part the reason for the introduction of the Bill.

We consider that if there is such concern for the health of young people in obtaining piercings then the practice of the industry in performing the procedures should also be addressed. To this extent, we believe the legislative amendments are of themselves inadequate.

We suggest that the Bill has the potential to push the practice of piercing minors "underground", further increasing the risk to health of minors.

We consider that young people could be confused as to their rights and responsibilities, given the range of legislation that establishes at what age they may engage in certain practices, or utilise certain services with or without parental consent. We recommend the publication of information aimed directly at young people to educate them of their rights and responsibilities. Such information would also assist parents in discussing the risks and consequences of obtaining piercings, with their children.

I trust these additional comments on the Bill are of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Ralph Bönig
PRESIDENT