

To the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in parliament assembled:

The Petition of the residents of NSW, brings to the attention of the House that electroshock (ECT), is the application of hundreds of volts of electricity to the head to create a seizure, potentially causing brain damage, memory loss and sometimes death. ECT is legal for all ages in NSW, including children and is given to involuntarily detained children and adults without parental or their personal consent.

Basic electrical science proves that the electricity sent through the brain is converted to heat and increases temperature. Cells can suffer dysfunction, temporary injury, permanent damage or even cell death. On 18 October 2018, Somatics the manufacturer of an ECT machine used in NSW, issued a warning that ECT can cause permanent brain damage in its new risk disclosure.

A 2017 published review in the medical journal, *Ethical Human Psychology and Psychiatry* of more than 90 ECT studies since 2009, showed they remain "methodologically flawed" and "Given the well-documented high risk of persistent memory dysfunction, the cost-benefit analysis for ECT remains so poor that its use cannot be scientifically, or ethically, justified."

NSW's Policy Directive for ECT instructs that electroshock can be given up to four times during the same session. Medicare in the US do not fund this "multiple ECT" because studies have demonstrated there is an increased risk of side effects with multiple seizures.

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to:

Amend the *NSW Mental Health Act* to ban electroshock for all ages with criminal fines and prison terms for violation of the ban.

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Please return to: CCHR PO Box 6402, North Sydney NSW 2059