

I, Douglas Noel Humphries  
petition which contains

signatures.

in the State of Western Australia, am the promoter this

### PETITION IN RELATION TO THE MENTAL HEALTH BILL

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

**We the undersigned residents of Western Australia are concerned about** the lack of awareness in the Mental Health Bill 2013 of the real possibility of citizens being misdiagnosed as having a mental illness when they are **NOT** mentally ill. It is a terrifying and damaging experience to be treated involuntarily for mental illness in error. Citizens who have been misdiagnosed can be imprisoned without trial and given “treatments” which themselves are hazardous and traumatic. The current criteria for determining if a person presenting has a mental illness are subjective and dangerously imprecise. The Bill, through the regulations, refers to “international standards” such as the DSM 5 for these criteria which themselves have received extensive international criticism. The Bill as it stands tries to legislate certainty into a process that by its very nature is extremely uncertain and has led to the Bill giving no recognition of the possibility of diagnostic error and the need for vigilance. What is needed is a change in attitude similar to “safety in the workplace” that has occurred in industry over the last 40 years. Instead of their being a cavalier attitude of denial with a worker almost having to be a whistleblower to identify a safety hazard, sometimes risking his own employment, it has become a duty on everyone to identify safety risks and take action. An erroneous mental illness label has adverse impacts on the recipient with regard to restrictions on career paths, insurance, relationships, and the person’s view of themselves which not only comes at a great cost to the person but also at a huge cost to the state budget. More recognition of this situation is needed if the truth is to be honoured and the freedoms of speech, thought and person, which Australia aspires to, are to be achieved and protected. The change in attitude regarding vigilance towards identifying misdiagnosis starts with the objects of the bill.

**Your petitioners therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council to recommend** the following action:-

Add this “Object” on part 3 clause 10 of the Bill namely:-

- g) to reduce the incidence of misdiagnosis to a minimum and to provide a framework that will encourage continual vigilance regarding identifying situations where misdiagnosis has occurred thus ensuring that the freedom of citizens is protected.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE