

Editor,
The Press.
Private Bag 4722,
Christchurch Mail Centre,
Christchurch 8140.

Dear Ms Hayman,

I wish to lodge a formal complaint against an article titled "Non-binary finery" which was written by Felix Desmarais and published in the Press on 15 November 2018.

My complaint is that it breached the Press Council Principle 1. Accuracy Fairness and Balance. The article was inaccurate for the following reasons.

The article fails to reveal that the so called diagnosis is not made by a doctor nor can it be as there is no medical test that may support a diagnosis of a different gender than the biological gender that we are born with. Medical science has always known that we are biologically male or female. A female has 23 XX chromosomes and a male has 23 XY chromosomes, there is no drug or surgery that can change this biological reality. Comprehensive care for transgender adolescents includes the most radical and risky of hormone manipulations and surgeries. There is a concept defined called "gender identity" which has no physical presence and apparently can only be made known to the person in which it resides.

Comprehensive gender affirmative therapy is a high risk, experimental therapy based on low quality evidence and represents a treatment for a condition which cannot be diagnosed by any doctor.

I believe the article lacked fairness in that it did not reveal that this condition used to be called gender dysphoria and was treated as a mental disorder because there is no scientific evidence to support the fantasy that we are non-binary and can choose to be whatever gender we wished to be. Puberty blockers cause diminished bone mineralization and potential for future osteoporosis Children begun on puberty blockers and continuing to cross sex hormones are infertile.

Fertility preservation rates are less than 5 percent in these children even if they are given the opportunity to do so Removal of the ovaries and testicles cause permanent sterility. These are decisions that young minds are not prepared to make.

The article failed to reveal that this dangerous ideology is being promoted by the LGBTQ international movement and is being imposed on the nation's children in the "Inside Out programme" introduced into schools in 2015. This programme is a cause of confusion for many children who are being taught that they can decide when they are older what gender they may wish to be.

The article is on a very contentious socially destructive subject and lacked balance as there was no comment invited from any person or organisation to defend the common good and

to challenge the delusional ideology of those who refuse to accept the gender that they were born with.

Yours sincerely

Ken Orr,
Secretary,
Right to Life.