



The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

12 MAR 2026

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C-ECTF-26/2429

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: ClerksOffice@Parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*,

I write in response to petition number 4332-26, tabled in Parliament on 10 February 2026, in relation to treatments for children experiencing gender dysphoria.

Children's healthcare is one of our most significant responsibilities and we owe it to children that care is based on robust evidence and delivered with caution. The Queensland Government's position regarding treatment for children with gender dysphoria reflects these principles.

In January 2025, the Government commissioned an independent review, led by Professor Ruth Vine, to examine the evidence base and ethical considerations associated with puberty suppression (Stage 1) and gender affirming (Stage 2) hormones for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria in Queensland's public hospital system. The report was released on 19 December 2025.

The review engaged with a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to interviewing over 130 individuals, the review received 300 pages of written submissions and over 1,800 responses to a public consultation questionnaire, of which 49 per cent were from individuals with lived experience.

Professor Vine's review found that the evidence base for Stage 1 and 2 Treatments for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria was limited; noted that Stage 1 Treatment was found to impact a patient's bone health and Stage 2 Treatment negatively affected fertility; and noted that the United Kingdom's (UK) PATHWAYS Clinical Trial will consider the best support for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria.

Following Cabinet's consideration of the report, I decided it was in the public interest to continue the pause on Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapies for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria pending the results of the UK PATHWAYS Clinical Trial due in 2031.

I note this trial has recently been paused, due to concerns raised by the UK medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The UK Department of Health and Social Care states these concerns are "directly related to the wellbeing of children and young people". This development further justifies the Queensland Government's caution around the use of these treatments and supports my decision to issue a ministerial direction in the public interest.

The Queensland Government's actions are similar to those implemented by the UK Government which banned access to hormone therapy in December 2024. I refer the petitioners to a statement to the UK Parliament on 12 December 2024 by Labour's Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP, who states:

The Cass Review made it clear that there is not enough evidence about the long-term effects of using puberty blockers to treat gender incongruence to know whether they are safe or beneficial.

That evidence should have been established before they were ever prescribed for that purpose. It is a scandal that medicine was given to vulnerable young children, without proof that it was safe or effective, or that it had gone through the rigorous safeguards of a clinical trial.

And that:

After thoroughly examining all the available evidence, [The Commission on Human Medicines] has concluded that prescribing puberty blockers to children for the purposes of treating gender dysphoria, in the current prescribing environment, represents "an unacceptable safety risk".

While the pause remains in place, Queensland Health continues to provide clinically appropriate care to children and adolescents with gender dysphoria, including for new patients. This includes psychiatric and psychological care, counselling and other recommended clinical supports.

I thank the petitioners for raising their concerns about children's health. I can assure them that the continued pause on these therapies is in the public interest and is intended to protect the health and wellbeing of young Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Member for Clayfield