

Emeritus Professor Cindy Shannon
Chair, Queensland Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee
PO Box 2368
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Dear Emeritus Professor Cindy Shannon

On behalf of the Sexual Health Society of Queensland (SHSQ), we would like to again express our gratitude for your time and consideration of our previous correspondence concerning the lack of access to affordable surgery within the Queensland public hospital system for trans and gender diverse people. We thank you for your reply of May 2 and for the offer to table any further actions for the Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee to consider at their May 16 meeting. Since we last wrote, we have received a subsequent reply from the Minister for Health, the Hon Stephen Miles MP to the same submission, which we have attached for your interest.

You will note that in his concluding remarks, the Minister writes:

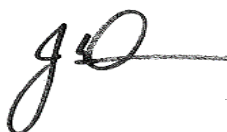
"I welcome your proposed approach of convening a working party to examine and address barriers of surgery access experienced by trans and gender diverse people and look forward to hearing about the outcomes"

This was in response to our proposal to explore and address the challenges for transgender Queenslanders seeking the best quality care, by establishing a working party. The goal of the working party would be to examine the barriers to surgery for trans and gender diverse people within the Queensland hospital system and determine how these could be made more widely available – where necessary – to trans individuals. It could also examine surgeries that are currently unavailable in Queensland public hospitals, such as genital reassignment surgery – and determine the viability of making such surgery available in the future, in line with international guidelines and practice in Europe and North America.

Given the Minister's response and acknowledging the wealth of skill and experience available amongst our Queensland clinicians working in this field, the SHSQ would like to discuss with the SHMAC the possibility of establishing a working party assigned to undertake such a goal. We fully acknowledge the excellent discussions engaged to date by the SHMAC concerning issues of Transgender well-being, particularly given the presence of Drs Graham Neilson and Stephen Stathis on the committee. We hope that with the assistance of the SHSQ, these discussions could be continued, either within the SHMAC itself or as part of the newly established Sexual Health Clinical Network.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss any aspect of trans health care, please do not hesitate to contact me. On behalf of the Sexual Health Society of Queensland, we would like to sincerely thank you for your time in considering the important issues we have raised. We look forward to ongoing collaboration to secure a healthier Queensland for every person.

Yours sincerely



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