



Department of Health

Enquiries to: Amanda Reeves
Manager, Sexual Health
Strategy, BBV/STI Unit,
Communicable Diseases
Branch
Telephone: 3328 9077

Dr Judith Dean
Queensland Sexual Health Society President
Dr Fiona Bisshop
Queensland Sexual Health Society Vice President
Email: shsqueensland@gmail.co

Sent by email only

Dear Dr Dean and Dr Bisshop

Thank you for your letter received on 1 April 2019 articulating concerns held by the Sexual Health Society of Queensland regarding barriers to accessing comprehensive, coordinated care experienced by trans and gender diverse people in Queensland.

Emeritus Professor Cindy Shannon appreciates you taking the time to raise the Sexual Health Society of Queensland's concerns with the Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (Committee), and as Committee Chair, Emeritus Professor Shannon has asked that I communicate the following to you on her behalf.

The Committee was convened to support the implementation of the *Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-21* (Strategy), and to provide expert advice to the Queensland Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services on subject matter contained within the four strategic directions articulated by the Strategy. Indeed, priority action 3.4 within Strategic Direction 3, amongst other references within the Strategy, speaks to this:

'Enhance the overall health, psychological wellbeing and self-fulfilment of transgender persons through access to non-discriminatory, affordable and multidisciplinary healthcare.'

As such, the Committee is considering the range of issues and challenges impacting on the physical and mental health of transgender, gender diverse and non-binary people, particularly following detailed presentations made by Committee members Dr Stephen Stathis and Dr Graham Neilsen in Committee meetings.

Office
Department of Health
Level 3
15 Butterfield Street
HERSTON QLD 4006

Postal
GPO Box 2368
FORTITUDE VALLEY
QLD 4001

Phone
(07) 3708 9728

Email
SexualHealthStrategy@health.qld.gov.au

The breadth of topics raised in your letter are comprehensive and have been noted with thanks by Emeritus Professor Shannon. Further, the correspondence will be tabled at the next Committee meeting on 16 May 2019 to continue these important discussions. In this regard, if there are any specific actions that the Sexual Health Society of Queensland would like to highlight for discussion at the meeting, could you please respond to this letter by email to sexualhealthstrategy@health.qld.gov.au. Your response by 10 May 2019 would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Amanda Reeves

**Manager, Sexual Health Strategy
Secretariat, Sexual Health Ministerial Advisory Committee**

02/05/2019