



Hon Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Health and  
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Dr Judith Dean  
President  
Queensland Sexual Health Society  
PO Box 1399  
TOOMBUL QLD 4012

Dear Dr Dean

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March 2019, co-signed by Dr Fiona Bisshop, Vice President, regarding the challenges trans and gender diverse people experience accessing comprehensive coordinated care in Queensland.

I very much appreciate you taking the time to alert me to these challenges.

Currently, Queensland Health provides specialist outpatient care to trans and gender diverse children and young people through the Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS) at Queensland Children's Hospital and state-wide through telehealth and local partnerships with public and private health providers. QCGS aims to improve the health, wellbeing and function of Queensland children through affirmative, family focused, interdisciplinary assessment and care that aligns with the *Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for trans and gender diverse children and adolescents*, and the *Endocrine Society Clinical Practice Guideline for Gender-Dysphoric/Gender-Incongruent Persons*.

Some services are currently provided to trans and gender diverse adults through the Gender Service located in Metro North Hospital and Health Service. The Gender Service provides assessment and diagnosis of gender dysphoria and psycho-social and speech support services. Where patients are diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria, further review and assessment by a sexual health physician is undertaken. Where indicated, gender-affirming treatment with cross-sex hormones will be arranged, with a referral back to patients' general practitioner for ongoing monitoring and management. Queensland Health does not currently provide gender reassignment surgeries, as noted in your correspondence.

The *Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-21* (the Strategy) acknowledges that care coordination by a multidisciplinary team, including primary health care providers, and clear pathways to psychology, endocrinology and surgical services, is vital to the overall health and well-being of trans and gender diverse people.

To implement the Strategy, \$1,065,000 has been allocated by Queensland Health to the Queensland Sexual Health Research Fund. One of the priority areas identified for this project funding is research and practical approaches that address gaps in service access and improve health outcomes for transgender people, particularly those transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. This may align with work that you and your colleagues are progressing, and I encourage you to find out more online at [www.ashm.org.au/programs/QLD/SHRF/](http://www.ashm.org.au/programs/QLD/SHRF/).

I commend your commitment to improving trans and gender diverse peoples' access to comprehensive coordinated care in Queensland. I welcome your proposed approach of convening a working party to examine and address barriers to surgery access experienced by trans and gender diverse people and look forward to hearing about the outcomes.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Mr David Harmer, Senior Director, Strategic Policy and Legislation Branch, Department of Health, on telephone 3708 5574, to be available to assist you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**STEVEN MILES MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**