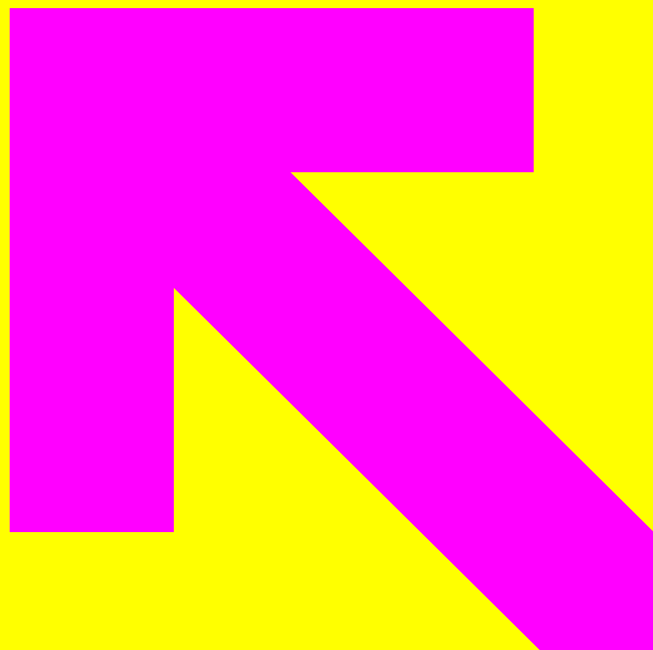


# Queensland Trans Health Review Fact Sheet

*A resource for media,  
commentators, and advocates*

30.06.25



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Prepared by Freya Kerwick PhD for Trans Justice Project

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For more information about  
Trans Justice Project visit  
[transjustice.org.au](https://transjustice.org.au)

*Email us: [info@transjustice.org.au](mailto:info@transjustice.org.au)*

# Background

**Gender-affirming care is life-changing and often life-saving health care. It helps trans and gender-diverse people to lead healthy and happy lives, and gives them the freedom to be themselves.**

Gender-affirming care enjoys support from major medical organisations both in Australia and globally, and extremely high satisfaction rates among its recipients. (See page five and six of our [Anti-Trans Disinformation Handbook](#) for more information)

On 28th January 2025, the Queensland Government ordered a review into its paediatric gender health services and suspended new patients under the age of eighteen from receiving gender-affirming care for the duration of the review. This means that at least four hundred and ninety-one children and young people have been left stranded without vital healthcare for six months.

After an [extended delay](#), the panel for the review has been announced and is seeking submissions. The suspension of care and subsequent review marks an unprecedented rollback of vital healthcare, has received wide-spread condemnation, and has politicised trans wellbeing at a time when we are facing unprecedented attacks against our rights worldwide.

This resource pulls together the many concerning elements about this review for use by commentators, professionals, community members, and interested members of the public.

**In light of these concerns and the clear harm already caused by the actions of Minister Nicholls and Premier Crisafulli, the Queensland government needs to cancel its review and reinstate care immediately.**

*[\\*Independent review of Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapies in Queensland's public paediatrics gender services](#)*

# Key concerns regarding the Queensland Review

**The LNP Government have repeatedly expressed political opposition to the health care and rights of the trans community**

While Health Minister Tim Nicholls justified the suspension of care on the basis that a clinic “may not” have followed guidelines, reporting on LNP policy before the October 2024 Queensland state election provides some concerning indications that the ban may have been considered before these alleged breaches.

Tim Nicholls expressed misgivings about gender-affirming care for young people as far back as June 2023. This was followed by the LNP party convention in June 2024, at which an “overwhelming majority” of the party voted in support of banning gender affirming care for young people, a decision which one member described as “transphobia disguised as policy”.

It was reported in October 2024 that just before the state election, LNP official and anti-abortion campaigner Alan Baker, had sent an email to branch members warning that the state had been “captured by transgender ideology”. Neither the party nor then Opposition Leader David Crisafulli commented on the email.

In November 2024, just after the election, anti-trans group Binary Australia issued a statement from suspended anti-trans psychiatrist Jillian Spencer calling on Tim Nicholls to “stop the prescription of puberty blockers and cross sex hormones” to trans and gender diverse young people. Each of these news reports demonstrate that there was scepticism towards gender affirming care for young people within the LNP, as well as pressure from outside the party to suspend care before the alleged breaches at the Cairns clinic were reported.

Tim Nicholls’ qualms about gender affirming care for trans young people have also had an impact on policy of the Queensland LNP government. When the government announced its decision not to follow the recommendation of the 2024 review to expand the Queensland Children’s Gender Service, Nicholls explicitly referred back to the views he expressed in his June 2023 speech before parliament, saying they informed the decision not to follow the recommendations.

## **The ban was announced one week after Donald Trump's executive order attacking the rights of the trans community**

In the United States, on the 20th January 2025, the Trump Administration signed its executive order declaring that only two unchangeable sexes were recognised in the United States, challenging the legal recognition of trans people in the country.

The Queensland government announced their suspension of care only a week later, on the 28th January 2025.

The timing suggests that the government's directive was a political move to 'ride the wave' of Trump's announcement, and push for similar actions here in Australia.

## **There was less than twenty-one minutes consultation prior to the ban being announced**

Queensland Health Minister Tim Nicholls reportedly only undertook twenty-one minutes of consultation about the review and suspension of care, with the bulk of this consultation occurring during the press conference that announced the ban.

The lack of substantial consultation raises questions about the legality of the ban and has caused one mother, whose trans daughter was just weeks away from accessing hormone treatment through the public system, to challenge the government's actions in the Supreme Court.

## **The Queensland government justified the ban by citing an alleged admin error at the Cairns clinic that only affected two patients**

The suspension of care was justified by Nicholls' with the assertion that the service in Cairns had provided "apparently unauthorised" services to forty-two clients, that "may not" have followed the guidelines for treatment in Australia.

Later reporting narrowed this "apparently unauthorised" service provision down to seventeen patients, *only two* of which were found to have been provided care with "no indication of parental awareness or consent."

The suspension of vital health care for the entire state of Queensland is not a proportional or measured response to addressing an alleged break from guidelines for two patients at one clinic.

Six months later, Nicholls is yet to clarify why such an extreme response was deemed necessary, and whether there was any consideration of how to mitigate the harm and distress the announcement would cause.

## **There was already an independent review of the Queensland Children's Gender Service in 2024**

The Queensland Children's Gender Service received a review just last year in 2024 which found that the state's paediatric gender service was "safe and evidence based," and recommended that the service be expanded so that it was more accessible to trans and gender diverse young people. The full review can be read here.

The former Labor government had committed to putting the recommendations of this review into action, and the LNP also considered doing so, before backflipping only three weeks before the suspension of care was put in place.

Further, on January 31st, Federal Health Minister Mark Butler announced that the National Health and Medical Research Council would conduct an Australia-wide review of the treatment guidelines for gender-affirming care and will develop new national guidelines. The NHMRC is Australia's leading expert body in health and medical research.

In light of this, Butler called on the Queensland government to halt their review:

"Given the pre-eminence of the NHMRC and the statutory charter that it has to commission and issue clinical guidelines, I've indicated to Minister Nicholls that I don't think it would be appropriate for Queensland to continue with their stated intention to undertake an evidence review in this area of care. These issues should be nationally consistent, and in my view, should be driven by the pre-eminent authority, which is the NHMRC."

The Queensland Government is yet to adequately explain their decision to continue to pursue their review when one is being conducted by a reputable national body.

## **Medical and human rights bodies have condemned the actions of the government**

The suspension has been criticised by the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the National Sex Discrimination Commissioner, the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and in the newsletter of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

## **Review submission process may encourage anti-trans sentiment in responses**

It is deeply concerning that the review is encouraging the general public to share their uninformed views on essential medical care for trans and gender diverse young people. Trans and gender diverse people have been the target of extensive disinformation campaigns, often being deployed by far-right parties as a wedge issue to win power (see Donald Trump's remarks about how attacking trans people in an election means "you can't lose"). By soliciting input from the broader public, and not just those with medical expertise or lived experience with gender-affirming care, the review risks legitimising harmful misinformation and disinformation about trans and gender diverse young people, and the broader trans community.

Further, we have concerns about the questions asked in the submission form, which are phrased with a negative slant towards gender-affirming care. Questions foreground the "concerns" about gender-affirming care without a corresponding question about benefits, asks about areas that "lack sufficient evidence" rather than using a more neutral phrasing, and repeatedly asks for the respondent's personal opinion throughout the form—"in your view" and "what range of hormone treatments *do you understand* are available..."—rather than something more substantial.

When paired with the solicitation of responses from the broader public, these loaded questions raise serious concerns about the validity of the information collected by the review.

## **The Review Panel contains no trans people or anyone with clinical expertise in gender-affirming care**

While there is significant expertise across many fields on the review panel, there is no one with clinical expertise in the provision of gender-affirming care nor does it include a single trans person. It is highly concerning that there is no one to offer clinical expertise in the field that is being evaluated, nor anyone to offer a perspective from lived experience, on the review team.

Eloise Brook, the Chief Executive of peak body for trans health care AusPath described this move as like "a review of cardiac services and there were no cardiologists on the review panel."

## **The original directive and terms of reference highlight the anti-trans Cass Review as relevant to the investigation.**

The Cass Review was used to justify the original directive by Director-General of Queensland Health, David Rosengren, and is explicitly cited in the terms of reference of the Review.

The Cass Review is an independent review of trans youth health care in the NHS in the UK. The Cass review has been roundly criticised for its methodological approach, for taking a cis-centric and pathologising perspective of trans people and their healthcare, for its selective use of evidence, and for its flawed conclusions.

It has been widely rejected by Australian medical experts, including the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and by the trans community.

More information about the limitations of the Cass Review can be found on page 26 of our *Anti-Trans Disinformation Handbook*.



# Take action:

## Protect trans health care

[Sign the petition](#) calling for the Queensland government to cancel their review and to reinstate care.

You can also make a [submission](#) to the review on the Queensland Government website.

 **Trans justice project.**

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