

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Health Service Directive: Treatment of gender dysphoria in children

### What does the Health Service Directive mean for the care and treatment provided by the Queensland Children's Gender Service?

Under the Health Service Directive (HSD), no **new** patients under 18 years at Queensland public health services can be prescribed Stage 1 (hormone blockers) or Stage 2 (gender-affirming hormone therapy) treatment for gender dysphoria.

The HSD **does not** change the treatment plans of current patients who have already commenced Stage 1 or Stage 2 hormone therapy treatment for gender dysphoria.

The HSD **does not** change the prescription of hormone therapy treatment for medical conditions other than gender dysphoria.

### When does the Health Service Directive come into effect?

The Health Service Directive is effective as of 28 January 2025.

### How long will hormone therapies for new patients be paused for?

The Health Service Directive will remain in place until the Queensland Government considers and acts on the outcome of an independent review of the evidence for hormone therapy treatment for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria. The review is expected to be completed in 2025.

### What do these changes mean for existing patients of the Queensland Children's Gender Service who are already receiving hormone treatments?

Children and young people who are already receiving puberty blockers or gender-affirming hormones as part of their treatment plan will not be affected by this change.

### What do these changes mean for children and young people on the waitlist for the Queensland Children's Gender Service?

While the Health Service Directive is in place, no new patients under 18 years experiencing gender dysphoria can be prescribed Stage 1 or Stage 2 hormone therapy treatments. The Queensland Children's Gender Service will continue to provide all other clinical support and treatments for children and adolescents experiencing gender dysphoria including psychiatric and psychological support, counselling and other clinically recommended medical interventions.



## Is the care and treatment provided by the Queensland Children's Gender Service safe for my child?

In 2023, Children's Health Queensland commissioned an external clinical service evaluation of the Queensland Children's Gender Service as part of its ongoing commitment to ensure children and young people continue to receive the safest, evidence-informed care which is in line with international best practice.

The evaluation found the clinical practice and care provided by the Queensland Children's Gender Service is safe, evidence-based and consistent with the current national and international guidelines for treatment and care of children and adolescents with diverse gender experiences. Read the [full report](#).

## More questions?

If you have specific questions about what the Health Service Directive means for your care (or your child's care) at the Queensland Children's Gender Clinic, please email them to: [CHQ-Gender@health.qld.gov.au@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHQ-Gender@health.qld.gov.au@health.qld.gov.au)

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