




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Children, Gender Dysphoria Treatment

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.44 pm): I rise to touch on a subject that I raised in question time today, which is how in Queensland the medical fraternity is being influenced in way that they apply their professional judgement in so far as it impacts kids who are being treated for gender dysphoria. In 2016, the Queensland Children's Gender Service was set up and funded as part of the Queensland Children's Hospital. There is no doubt it does some good for kids suffering with gender dysphoria or severe mental health issues. A lot of good work gets done there, I am sure.

The problem arises when an order comes down from the board, overseen by the government, that says, 'You must treat using the new affirmation model.' However, the only studies confirming that treatment are two studies out of Holland, the viability of which has been questioned. Professionals say that it is not consistent with all of the other evidence that says the better pathway may be to not use puberty blockers at that point. The affirmation model would say they cannot practice that way but must be corralled into using the one tool to deal with those kids.

In some cases, that model might be the right thing, but doctors should be able to use their professional discretion. We train doctors to use their judgement and their professional skills, looking at all of the evidence. Queensland Health will not always have the mortgage on what is the best outcome. They will give their best judgement based on the evidence, but this is not the best evidence because we are relying on only two studies from Holland.

We know there is a political agenda here. We cannot have political agendas encroaching on professional judgement. In Queensland there are 75 doctors involved. A pretty scary environment is developing around this stuff now. If you want to make a statement on this you can be branded a bigot or characterised similarly, as I am sure I will be for saying this today. Despite that, 75 doctors have spoken up. Dr Jillian Spencer has said, 'I don't have any religious beliefs. I'm not political. It is just my professional opinion that the careful watch-and-wait approach has produced better outcomes for people reaching adolescence.' There is no evidence at all to say the affirmation model prevents suicide.

The minister talked about R U OK? Day. I hope we are okay. The whole point is that we want those kids to have the best outcome, not just for now but right through adolescence and adulthood. We cannot encroach on our doctors in this space. I cannot impose my ideologies. I might want to but I cannot and nor can those opposite. However, that is exactly what is happening, evidenced by the fact that Dr Jillian Spencer is no longer able to practise here by virtue of the fact that she expressed her professional opinion on what was best for patients, which was not accepted by or consistent with the agenda or the ideology of the government of the day.