



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Children, Gender Dysphoria Treatment

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.20 pm): I rise to express deep concern over the affirmation model of gender care provided to children with gender dysphoria in Queensland. In Queensland, children with gender dysphoria are treated using this model, which involves immediately accepting the child's stated gender identity, encouraging social transition and the prescription of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and then gender-affirming surgeries. Under Queensland Health's policy, they are butchering our children by automatically setting these kids on a pathway to unproven harmful gender treatments.

**Mrs McMahon** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Macalister, you are not in your seat. You are warned. I have given instructions in relation to that. You have been interjecting from outside your own seat. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr KNUTH:** Countries such as Finland, Sweden, Norway and England have conducted independent reviews of the available research evidence behind the affirmation model. Due to insufficient evidence supporting its use, these countries have changed their approach to instead recommend psychosocial intervention and restrict the prescription of puberty blockers to children. Praise the Lord!

Last week in England the National Health Service announced the banning of prescriptions of puberty blockers for gender dysphoria. England's health minister said—

We welcome this landmark decision by the NHS to end the routine prescription of puberty blockers and this guidance which recognises that ... care must be based on evidence, expert clinical opinion and in the best interests of the child.

Unfortunately this has not led to a similar independent reassessment of the existing affirmation treatment model used by Queensland Health. I have been advised that the government's current review of gender clinics has been stacked by known advocates for this affirmation model.

Doctors have been forced by Queensland Health to affirm the social transition of children. It is sickening that doctors are not being allowed to use their trained professional discretion to take a more cautious clinical approach in line with international advice. Queensland doctors are too scared to raise concerns about the affirmation model due to fear of losing their employment and Ahpra registration. Mr Deputy Speaker, when you go to a doctor you expect to get the best medical advice based on training and evidence. However, doctors are being forced to accept the state government's narrative.

I call on the health minister to launch an independent parliamentary inquiry into the affirmation model to ensure health professionals are not forced to provide harmful treatments so that Queensland children and parents can trust the care being provided to them is safe and evidence based.