




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Children, Hormone Therapy

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (9.21 pm): My community of Mansfield is reeling from the LNP's decision to halt the implementation of recommendations made by the 2024 review of the Queensland Children's Gender Service including ceasing hormone therapy treatment for young gender-diverse Queenslanders. This decision undermines, and is in stark contrast to, how our parents and community support our young people, and my community has been here before. In January 2022, Citipointe Christian College tried it on; they introduced an enrolment contract that discriminated against students based on their sexuality or gender identity. Students, parents and members of the Mansfield electorate overwhelmingly rejected this administrative act and ultimately Citipointe withdrew the contract.

Once again, young people are being targeted and subjected to harm and prejudice due to the LNP government's decision to halt vital gender-affirming care. We know that this was an ideological outcome looking for a cause—the cause found in our vulnerable young people. It is a dirty right-wing priority deal done in response to the abortion gag. The political victims are young people who already face additional risk to their mental health including self-harm and isolation. I have heard from many mothers in my community for whom this decision will have a direct effect on their child's life. These are not abstract concerns; they are real worries shared by families trying to do what is best for their children.

In 2023, Children's Health Queensland commissioned an external service evaluation of the Queensland Children's Gender Service. This evaluation was part of their commitment to ensuring that children and young people receive the safest, most evidence informed care. We know that access to health services is the first step in promoting better mental and physical wellbeing for young people who are questioning or wish to affirm their gender. We know that gender-affirming care saves lives and yet this LNP government seems determined to limit this access.

The LNP is yet to provide a logical rationale to support its decision-making. What consultation was undertaken with the health services before making the decision to pause gender-affirming care across the state? Did the minister consult directly with the trans community? Local families deserve answers. Since the ban, services that provide support to gender diverse youth have experienced a significant increase in referrals. Open Doors has reported a 68 per cent increase in referrals and yet has received no further funding or support from the LNP to meet this demand. My community is asking for immediate action from this government to ensure our most vulnerable young people are provided the health care afforded to all Queenslanders.