



Speech By  
**Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Children, Hormone Therapy**

 **Ms ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (9.02 pm): Before I begin, I raise a content warning related to transphobia, mental health, self-harm and suicide. It is often said that the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. Unfortunately, what we have seen so far from the Crisafulli LNP government is frightening. First it was First Nations peoples with what the *Courier-Mail* called a politically cruel move when the LNP repealed the Path to Treaty legislation—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Apologies, member for Algester. Members, keep your noise down, please, as you are leaving the House out of respect to the member on her feet.

**Ms ENOCH:**—with no consultation, no notice and just four hours debate and now it is the LGBTIQA+ community. Last month, without warning, the LNP Minister for Health ordered a blanket statewide halt on any new patients under 18 accessing health services related to gender therapy. It is fair to say that the LNP's decision to interfere with an individual's right to health care has left incredibly vulnerable young people and their families in an even more vulnerable position. This is evidenced in the Open Doors Youth Service 'share your story' campaign, and I will share just a few of the numerous stories young people have shared on that website. One young person heartbreakingly shared—

I have been directly affected by the ban, I was referred in late May of 2023 under a category 2 and have been waiting since to receive any kind of updates. When I found out about the halt, I sobbed for 3 hours, it genuinely felt like my reason and motivation for living had been taken away from me.

They went on to say—

I have hurt myself and attempted to end my own life because of the feelings brought on by gender dysphoria, I have been severely bullied for being trans, gender dysphoria has caused me to dissociate heavily, have panic attacks, and so so so so so much more.

Another young person said, 'I no longer want to live if I am denied these hormones.'

The consistent message by young people, their parents and supporters is that the LNP's decision to halt access to gender dysphoria health treatment will put young people's lives at risk.

How anyone can read these stories and not be affected is beyond me. Did the minister talk to any young vulnerable people or their families before announcing this blanket ban? Did he take into account their incredible vulnerability? What exactly was the level of consultation he undertook to reach this decision?

I am advised that Open Doors Youth Service, Queensland's only dedicated LGBTIQA+ youth service, has experienced a 68 per cent increase in referrals since the LNP minister's decision. Has the minister ensured this service has the extra resources it now needs to deal with the fallout of his decision? I call on the health minister to immediately release the details of any consultation he

undertook with the community prior to declaring this statewide ban and provide advice regarding how the LNP intends to address the very real impact their decision has had on the mental health of many young people.

Just like we saw when the former LNP government closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre, the LNP has once again inserted themselves and their ideology into the direct health care of vulnerable young people. This action reflects the true measure of this government and its disregard for some of our society's most vulnerable citizens.