



Speech By
Hon. Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Children, Hormone Therapy; Supreme Court Ruling

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (5.43 pm): Earlier today I updated this House following the Supreme Court's decision on the Queensland Health director-general's health service directive which paused stage 1 treatment and stage 2 treatment for children and adolescents under 18 years of age. The Supreme Court was concerned with the circumstances of the making of the directive, not whether a pause on stage 1 treatment or stage 2 treatment was appropriate. In his judgement Justice Callaghan said—

By their intrinsic character, these proceedings do not involve any review of the directive's merits. They are concerned solely with the legal requirements that attend any decision of this nature ...

I also note that in his judgement His Honour said—

It should also be acknowledged that both the Minister and the respondent were operating in a problematic legal terrain ... When in that sort of territory, it is hard to be critical when a finding is made, under this heading, that relevant actions fell on the wrong side of a fine line.

I have now had an opportunity to consider this issue further and consider the steps available to the government, given that we were prepared for an adverse finding. Having done so, and in accordance with section 44(1) of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, I am satisfied it is appropriate and in the public interest that I issue a written ministerial direction to all hospital and health services with immediate effect.

The approved ministerial direction—titled 'Treatment of gender dysphoria in children and adolescents with hormone therapy'—will be available on the Queensland Health website. The ministerial direction implements a restriction on the provision of stage 1 treatment and stage 2 treatment to children and adolescents under 18 years of age with gender dysphoria. Patients who are already on a treatment plan remain exempt from this directive. I have considered an appropriate human rights compatibility assessment in this deliberation. The restriction will remain in effect until such time as the government considers and acts on the outcomes of the independent review of stage 1 and stage 2 hormone therapies.