

Question on Notice

No. 1014

Asked on 12 October 2022

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) since its inception, how much has been spent by the Queensland Children's Gender Service (and by extension Queensland Health) on providing young people (and their families) with financial support for legal costs, (b) how many young people (and their families) this total spend has been split across and (c) what precedent exists for Queensland Health to fund legal costs for its patients?

ANSWER

Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service launched the state's first dedicated public multidisciplinary specialist paediatric gender service in 2017 to improve the health, wellbeing and function of Queensland gender diverse children through affirmative, family-focused, assessment and specialist care.

In line with the Queensland Health Guide to Informed Decision-Making in Health Care (2ND edition), an application to the court is considered in situations, and with procedures, that are so serious that neither young person, parent nor a guardian can give valid consent. Consent is obtained from the appropriate court where treatments are considered to be extremely high risk, ethically sensitive or have profound life-changing effects. Neither consent from the parent nor a child/young person with capacity to make the decision is sufficient in such cases.

Since 1 July 2017, the CHQHHS has provided financial assistance in the form of legal fees and preparation of medical reports to 15 young people. This assistance has enabled equitable access to just over 1 per cent of young people who have accessed the Queensland Children's Gender Service.

Total financial support since 1 July 2017 is \$171,752.25 (excluding GST). This represents approximately 2 per cent of the total budget of the Queensland Children's Gender Service up to 30 June 2022.