

Question on Notice

No. 758

Asked on 13 June 2023

MR R KATTER ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS)—

Will the Minister (a) confirm whether, as alleged in the media in *The Australian* on 12 June 2023 (Senior child psychiatrist stood down after questioning gender medicine), a senior psychiatrist employed by the Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS) was stood down in April 2023, following an accusation of 'transphobia', (b) advise how many clinicians employed by the QCGS have been stood down since its inception due to accusations of 'transphobia' or a failure to follow a 'gender-affirming model' of care and how many of these clinicians were ultimately dismissed and (c) confirm whether a 'gender-affirming model' of care is the only approach endorsed by QCGS and Queensland Health for clinicians to employ when dealing with gender dysphoria in children and adolescents?

ANSWER

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

All treatment and care provided by the Queensland Children's Gender Service is guided by *the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents* (<https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/adolescent-medicine/australian-standards-of-care-and-treatment-guidelines-for-trans-and-gender-diverse-children-and-adolescents.pdf>), and the *World Professional Association for Transgender Health's Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People* (8th edition) (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>).

Every patient's treatment pathway is individual and developed in close partnership between specialist clinicians, patients and parents/carers after a comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment. Gender-affirming care is only one option that may be considered.

The overarching aim of treatment is to:

- reduce gender dysphoria;
- ameliorate harms related to family attunement, bullying, discrimination, social exclusion; and
- address psychological distress where present to improve long term health and wellbeing outcomes.

No clinicians employed by the Queensland Children's Gender Service have been stood down due to accusations of 'transphobia' or a failure to follow a 'gender-affirming model' of care.

All Children's Health Queensland employees are bound by the *Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service* and subject to relevant workplace and employment processes under the *Public Sector Act 2022 (Qld)*.

As a recognised child-safe organisation, the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people is always the highest priority. Children's Health Queensland is obliged to take appropriate action when a complaint about the safety and/or quality of care provided by an employee is received.

Details around individual employment matters are subject to confidentiality and privacy requirements and will not be specifically commented on.