

Question on Notice

No. 915

Asked on 22 August 2023

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

QUESTION

With reference to the lack of evidence underpinning the use of puberty blockers which has resulted in a number of overseas jurisdictions restricting their use—

Will the Minister advise when an inquiry will be held into the treatments being provided in Queensland to children with gender dysphoria?

ANSWER

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting trans and gender diverse children and young people through the provision of evidence-based, specialist care.

I am advised the statewide Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS) provides multidisciplinary care in line with peer reviewed, nationally and internationally accepted clinical guidelines, and continually reviews care and clinical outcomes to monitor the safety and effectiveness of services provided to children, young people, and their families.

For young Queenslanders experiencing gender-specific health issues, research and evidence is fundamental to the policy direction and clinical response provided by Queensland Health.

The QCGS operates under the *Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines* which aim to maximise quality care provision to trans and gender diverse children and adolescents based on available empirical evidence and clinician consensus.

The QCGS is also an active participant and contributor to national and international research into transgender and gender diverse care, including the monitoring of quality of care and ongoing research to determine longitudinal outcomes.

QCGS is also a member of the National Research Consortium for Trans Youth and Children (ARCTYC), which is establishing a national cohort of transgender children and youth studying long term outcomes to inform continuous improvement in delivery of clinical care for this cohort.

In line with its ongoing program of rigorous clinical review in partnership with patients and families, the QCGS is continuously identifying opportunities to evaluate its services in line with national and international best practice and evidence.