



The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care

Ref No: MC24-008612

The Hon Guy Barnett MP
Attorney General
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
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Dear Attorney General 

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 May 2024 regarding public gender-affirming health care services in Australia.

Delivering better health outcomes for all Australians, including children and their families is a priority for the Australian Government. It is important that each child and family have access to the care and support they need for the best possible health, now and in the future. The Government recognises that the clinical treatment of children experiencing gender dysphoria is complex and evolving, and that longer-term evidence to inform treatment protocols is still developing.

Decisions regarding clinical care are shared between the clinicians, the child and their family. Individual practitioners, including paediatricians, psychiatrists and clinical psychologists provide treatment and care in the private sector. If there is a disagreement about the diagnosis, treatment or capacity of the minor to provide informed consent, the Family Court of Australia has ruled this requires an application to the Court to resolve the dispute consistent with the child's best interests.

Regarding your call for a national review, I note that in 2020, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians developed advice on the treatment of gender dysphoria in Australia. The advice was informed by consultation with relevant clinical experts and noted that a national inquiry would not increase the scientific evidence available regarding gender dysphoria but would further harm vulnerable patients and their families.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mark Butler

25/06 / 2024