

From: [Gender Guidelines](#)
To: S22 [MRFF EP](#)
Cc: [Alan.Singh \(NHMRC\)](#)
Subject: RE: National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 12 February 2025 6:15:49 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi S22

Please find some text that you can use in your SEB. I have also pasted NHMRC funded research relevant to this work that has been provided by our statistics team:

Background

- The Australian Government has requested NHMRC to undertake a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia (first published in 2018), and to develop new national guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 in Australia.
- The guideline will be developed in accordance with the NHMRC's Standards for Guidelines and the GRADE approach and is expected to take 3 years to develop. Priority will be given to developing advice on the use of puberty blockers to be released in 2026.
- The guideline will focus on ensuring that trans and gender-diverse people under 18 receive safe and appropriate care.
- The guidelines, once drafted, will be issued for public comment and consultation. Other opportunities for input are likely and will be communicated through the [NHMRC website](#) and NHMRC communication channels.

Research

NHMRC funded research relevant to transgender people under 18

GRANT ID	Year	CIA Name	Scheme	Title	Institution	State	Funding
GNT1157377	2018	Prof Ashleigh Lin	TCR into Indigenous Social and Emotional Wellbeing	Understanding and promoting the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ young people	University of Western Australia	WA	\$738,180.67
GNT2006529	2020	Assoc Prof Kenneth Pang	Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Grants	Trans20: A longitudinal cohort study to improve outcomes for transgender children and adolescents	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	VIC	\$1,625,394.02
GNT2027186	2023	Assoc Prof Kenneth Pang	Investigator Grants	Ensuring Safe and Effective Puberty Suppression for Transgender Adolescents	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	VIC	\$2,852,744.8

Sensitivities

s47E(d)

Thanks

s47F

Research Quality & Advice Branch
National Health and Medical Research Council

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P: +61 2 6217 9000

[www.nhmrc.gov.au](#)

From: S22

Sent: Wednesday, 12 February 2025 5:21 PM

To: Gender Guidelines ; MRFF EP

Cc: Alan Singh

Subject: RE: National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

You don't often get email from s22 health.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Team,

Just following up on this one.

Grateful if you can please have something to me before midday tomorrow at the latest as we have to plan for CEO approval prior to the brief going up to the MO.

Thanks

Kind Regards,

s22

Health and Medical Research Office

Health Economics and Research Division | Health Strategy, First Nations and Sports Group,
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

📞: s22 | ✉: s22 health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

From: s22

Sent: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 10:23 AM

To: Gender Guidelines <genderguidelines@nhmrc.gov.au>; MRFF EP <MRFF.EP@health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 @Health.gov.au>; Alan.Singh (NHMRC) <Alan.singh@nhmrc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Thank you.

And yes the below grant sits under my portfolio so I have already taken carriage of the wording for that section.

Appreciate your assistance with this one!

Kind Regards,

s22

s22

Health and Medical Research Office

Health Economics and Research Division | Health Strategy, First Nations and Sports Group,
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

📞: s22 | ✉: s22 @health.gov.au

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From: Gender Guidelines <genderguidelines@nhmrc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 10 February 2025 5:51 PM

To: MRFF EP <MRFF.EP@health.gov.au>

Cc: s22 @Health.gov.au>; s22 @Health.gov.au>;

Gender Guidelines <genderguidelines@nhmrc.gov.au>; Alan.Singh (NHMRC) <Alan.singh@nhmrc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s22

I'd be happy to provide some words in line with our Senate estimates brief but regarding LGBTQI+ funding, I am aware of the following grant opportunity in 2023 [Archived Grant Opportunity View - GO6063: GrantConnect](#). I have high level reporting within our current estimates brief that indicates that 13 grants valued at \$21,986,156 were awarded by the MRF through that grant opportunity. It has been recommended that you also check in with the Department's Health and Medical Research Office's post award team for detailed breakdown of this grant opportunity. I'll work on a para re the guideline, or I could find out if we can share our estimates brief if that's more useful.

Thanks

s47F



Research Quality and Advice
National Health and Medical Research Council

s47F nhmrc.gov.au

www.nhmrc.gov.au



I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters around Australia and pay my respects to Elders past and present.

From: MRFF EP <MRFF.EP@health.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 10 February 2025 2:52 PM

To: Gender Guidelines <genderguidelines@nhmrc.gov.au>

Cc: s22 [Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au); s22 [Health.gov.au](mailto:s22@health.gov.au)

Subject: National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

You don't often get email from mrff.ep@health.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon team,

The Department of Health and Aged Care is preparing a Senate estimates brief and we anticipate a question on LGBTQI+ funding and more specifically the National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18.

Grateful if you have any standard wording around this including key points to consider, background and any sensitivities.

Hopeful if we can have this back by Wednesday 12 February COB.

Thanks and Appreciate your assistance.

Kind Regards,

s22



Health and Medical Research Office

Health Economics and Research Division | Health Strategy, First Nations and Sports Group,
Australian Government, Department of Health and Aged Care

[s22](tel:s22) | s22@health.gov.au

GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and

their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

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HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH OFFICE
ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES FEBRUARY 2025
AS BRIEF

MRFF LGBTQI+ RESEARCH FUNDING

HANDLING NOTE

- Questions relating to the National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18 should be referred to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).
- The Australian Government has requested NHMRC to undertake a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia (first published in 2018), and to develop new national guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 in Australia.

○ s47E(d)

KEY POINTS

MRFF LGBTQI+ Research Funding

- Through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) \$22 million over 3 years from 2023-24 was made available via the 2023 Models of Care for Sexuality & Gender Diverse People & People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics grant opportunity.
- Thirteen grants were funded to a total of \$21.9 million to improve the physical and mental health of:
 - sexuality diverse people including those who live in regional, remote and rural areas
 - sexuality and/or gender diverse people experiencing intersectional disadvantage
 - transgender and gender diverse children, adolescents and young adults
 - people born with innate variations of sex characteristics.

Of these grants just under \$1 million of funding was made available with a direct focus on trans youth (see application 8 in table 1 below, with more details in background), and \$9.2 million with an indirect focus on trans youth (see applications 1-4, 7 and 9-13 in table 1 below).

Table 1: Funded applications to the 2023 Models of Care for Sexuality & Gender Diverse People & People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics grant opportunity

Number	Organisation	Application Title	Total Funded
1	Flinders University	Developing an Inclusive Mental Healthcare Model of Care for LGBTQ people in South Australia	\$705,205.60
2	La Trobe University	Optimising the role and impact of mental health and AOD services and programs delivered by LGBTIQ+ community controlled organisations in Australia	\$1,998,842.00
3	Deakin University	A Whole of Community Systems Approach to Co-Designing and Implementing a Safe Spaces Model of Primary Healthcare for Sexuality Diverse Young People in Western Victoria	\$1,995,092.40
4	University of New South Wales	A 'whole-of-setting' model of care for trans and gender diverse people in prison	\$987,423.20
5	Deakin University	SAGE Dem: A model of care to improve health of sexuality and/or gender diverse people living with dementia	\$754,121.00
6	Southern Cross University	Co-creating rainbow-inclusive care for gender & sexually diverse people in residential aged care	\$999,533.59
7	The University of Queensland	Blak and Proud: Safe and deadly healthcare	\$986,490.00
8	University of Melbourne	Defining and measuring 'whole-of-self' affirming care to evaluate a multidisciplinary, patient-centred, and sustainable model of care for trans young people experiencing intersectional disadvantage	\$999,516.60
9	University of Melbourne	CO-designed Shared care Model of care for gender Affirming hormone Therapy (COSMAT Study))	\$1,000,000.00
10	Western Sydney University	Developing models of sexual health care for LGBTQA+ people living with disability	\$571,266.30
11	The University of Queensland	PRIDE: Promoting queer-inclusive professional identities for diversity in primary healthcare	\$997,825.80
12	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Improving health outcomes via the Australian Research Consortium for Trans Youth and Children (ARCTYC)	\$4,999,773.77
13	University of Sydney	Improving the physical and mental health of people born with innate variations of sex characteristics	\$4,991,065.94
Total			\$21,986,156.20

IF ASKED (optional)

N/a

Background**MRFF LGBTIQ+ Research Funding**

- The Government committed to measures in the October 2022-23 Budget to increase support and better understand the needs of LGBTIQ+ people.
- Australia's first 10-Year National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people (Action Plan) was released on 11 December 2024. The Action Plan will guide how Australia addresses health disparities and make improvements across the health system. Options for further research on LGBTIQ+ health and mental health will be explored as part of development of the Action Plan.
- One MRFF grant has a focus on LGBTIQ+ youth 'Trans and gender diverse young people from historically disadvantaged groups need safe and effective physical and mental health care'. The University of Melbourne is undertaking the project which has a focus on

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evaluating a new multidisciplinary gender service established within existing youth mental health services for those aged 12-25 to see if it meets the needs of this group.

- Since 2018 to end of 2024, the NHMRC has provided \$5,216,319.49 towards research with a focus on trans youth.

Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia

- The guideline will be developed in accordance with the NHMRC's Standards for Guidelines and the GRADE approach and is expected to take 3 years to develop. Priority will be given to developing advice on the use of puberty blockers to be released in 2026.
- The guideline will focus on ensuring that trans and gender-diverse people under 18 receive safe and appropriate care.
- The guidelines, once drafted, will be issued for public comment and consultation. Other opportunities for input are likely and will be communicated through the [NHMRC website](#) and NHMRC communication channels.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES March-April 2025
AS BRIEF

MRFF LGBTQI+ RESEARCH FUNDING

HANDLING NOTE

- Questions relating to the National evidence-based guidelines for the care of trans and gender-diverse people under 18 should be referred to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).
- The Australian Government has requested NHMRC to undertake a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia (first published in 2018), and to develop new national guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 in Australia.

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KEY POINTS

MRFF LGBTQI+ Research Funding

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Of these grants just under \$1 million of funding was made available with a direct focus on trans youth (see application 8 in table 1 below, with more details in background), and \$9.2 million with an indirect focus on trans youth (see applications 1-4, 7 and 9-13 in table 1 below).

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3	Deakin University	A Whole of Community Systems Approach to Co-Designing and Implementing a Safe Spaces Model of Primary Healthcare for Sexuality Diverse Young People in Western Victoria	\$1,995,092.40
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6	Southern Cross University	Co-creating rainbow-inclusive care for gender & sexually diverse people in residential aged care	\$999,533.59
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Total			\$21,986,156.20

IF ASKED (optional)

N/a

Background**MRFF LGBTIQ+ Research Funding**

- The Government committed to measures in the October 2022-23 Budget to increase support and better understand the needs of LGBTIQ+ people.
- Australia's first 10-Year National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ people (Action Plan) was released on 11 December 2024. The Action Plan will guide how Australia addresses health disparities and make improvements across the health system. Options for further research on LGBTIQ+ health and mental health will be explored as part of development of the Action Plan.
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evaluating a new multidisciplinary gender service established within existing youth mental health services for those aged 12-25 to see if it meets the needs of this group.

- Since 2018 to end of 2024, the NHMRC has provided \$5,216,319.49 towards research with a focus on trans youth.

Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia

- The guideline will be developed in accordance with the NHMRC's Standards for Guidelines and the GRADE approach and is expected to take 3 years to develop. Priority will be given to developing advice on the use of puberty blockers to be released in 2026.
- The guideline will focus on ensuring that trans and gender-diverse people under 18 receive safe and appropriate care.
- The guidelines, once drafted, will be issued for public comment and consultation. Other opportunities for input are likely and will be communicated through the [NHMRC website](#) and NHMRC communication channels.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES October 2025
AS BRIEF

MRFF LGBTQI+ RESEARCH FUNDING

HANDLING NOTE

- Questions relating to the development of the National clinical practice guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 with gender dysphoria should be referred to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).
 - The Australian Government has requested NHMRC to undertake a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia (first published in 2018), and to develop new national guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 in Australia.
 - s47E(d)

KEY POINTS

MRFF LGBTQI+ Research Funding

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 - transgender and gender diverse children, adolescents and young adults
 - people born with innate variations of sex characteristics.
- Of these grants, just under \$1 million of funding was made available with a direct focus on trans youth (grant 8 in Table 1; more details in background), and \$9.2 million with an indirect focus on trans youth (grants 1-4, 7 and 9-13 in Table 1).

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Total			\$21,986,156.20

IF ASKED (optional)

N/A

Background**MRFF LGBTQI+ Research Funding**

- **From Table 1 (grant 8):** *Defining and measuring 'whole-of-self' affirming care to evaluate a multidisciplinary, patient-centred, and sustainable model of care for trans young people experiencing intersectional disadvantage*
 - The University of Melbourne is undertaking the project which has a focus on evaluating a new multidisciplinary gender service established within existing youth mental health services for those aged 12-25 to see if it meets the needs of this group.
- In addition to the 2023 Models of Care for Sexuality & Gender Diverse People & People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics grant opportunity, from its inception to 31

August 2025, the MRFF has funded \$1,218,102.27 across two grants for LGBTQI+ youth research:

- \$593,860.27 to Murdoch Children's Research Institute for a randomised controlled trial of consumer-led Trans Adolescent Group Therapy for Alleviating Minority stress (TAG TEAM).
- \$624,242.00 to Edith Cowan University for the development and trial of an inter-generational intervention for supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQI+ Young Peoples' Wellbeing (Pride Yarns).
- Since 2018 to end of 2024, the NHMRC has provided \$5,216,319.49 towards research with a focus on trans youth.
- Australia's first 10-Year [National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025-2035](#) (Action Plan) was released on 11 December 2024. The Action Plan will guide how Australia addresses health disparities and make improvements across the health system. Options for further research on LGBTQI+ health and mental health will be explored as part of the implementation of the Action Plan.

National clinical practice guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 with gender dysphoria

- The guidelines will be developed in accordance with the NHMRC's Standards for Guidelines and the [GRADE approach](#) and is expected to take 3 years to develop. Priority will be given to developing advice on the use of puberty blockers to be released in 2026.
- The guidelines will focus on ensuring that trans and gender-diverse people under 18 receive safe and appropriate care.
- The guidelines, once drafted, will be issued for public comment and consultation. Other opportunities for input are likely and will be communicated through the [NHMRC website](#) and NHMRC communication channels.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES December 2025
AS BRIEF

MRFF LGBTQI+ RESEARCH FUNDING

SENSITIVITIES

- Questions relating to the development of the National clinical practice guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 with gender dysphoria should be referred to the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

KEY POINTS

MRFF LGBTQI+ Research Funding

- Through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) \$22 million over 3 years from 2023-24 was made available via the 2023 Models of Care for Sexuality & Gender Diverse People & People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics grant opportunity.
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 - sexuality diverse people including those who live in regional, remote and rural areas
 - sexuality and/or gender diverse people experiencing intersectional disadvantage
 - transgender and gender diverse children, adolescents and young adults
 - people born with innate variations of sex characteristics.
- The grant period for projects funded under this grant opportunity ranges between 3-5 years from the date of execution. As projects commenced in 2024, they are anticipated to be complete between 2027-2029.
- Of these grants, just under \$1 million of funding was made available with a direct focus on trans youth (grant 8 in Table 1; more details in background), and \$9.2 million with an indirect focus on trans youth (grants 1-4, 7 and 9-13 in Table 1).

Table 1: Funded applications to the 2023 Models of Care for Sexuality & Gender Diverse People & People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics grant opportunity

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Total			\$21,986,156.20

Background

MRFF LGBTQI+ Research Funding

- **From Table 1 (grant 8):** *Defining and measuring 'whole-of-self' affirming care to evaluate a multidisciplinary, patient-centred, and sustainable model of care for trans young people experiencing intersectional disadvantage*
 - The University of Melbourne is undertaking the project which has a focus on evaluating a new multidisciplinary gender service established within existing youth mental health services for those aged 12-25 to see if it meets the needs of this group.

- In addition to the 2023 Models of Care for Sexuality & Gender Diverse People & People with Innate Variations of Sex Characteristics grant opportunity, from its inception to 31 August 2025, the MRFF has funded \$1,218,102.27 across two grants for LGBTQI+ youth research:
 - \$593,860.27 to Murdoch Children's Research Institute for a randomised controlled trial of consumer-led Trans Adolescent Group Therapy for Alleviating Minority stress (TAG TEAM).
 - \$624,242.00 to Edith Cowan University for the development and trial of an inter-generational intervention for supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQI+ Young Peoples' Wellbeing (Pride Yarns).
- Since 2018 to end of 2024, the NHMRC has provided \$5,216,319.49 towards research with a focus on trans youth.
- The Government released Australia's first 10-Year [National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ People 2025-2035](#) (Action Plan) on 11 December 2024. The Action Plan will guide how Australia addresses health disparities and make improvements across the health system. Options for further research on LGBTQI+ health and mental health will be explored as part of the implementation of the Action Plan. **[Developed by Population Health Division]**

National clinical practice guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 with gender dysphoria

- The guidelines will be developed in accordance with the NHMRC's Standards for Guidelines and the [GRADE approach](#) and is expected to take 3 years to develop. Priority will be given to developing advice on the use of puberty blockers to be released in 2026.
- The guidelines will focus on ensuring that trans and gender-diverse people under 18 receive safe and appropriate care.
- The guidelines, once drafted, will be issued for public comment and consultation. Other opportunities for input are likely and will be communicated through the NHMRC.
- The Australian Government has requested NHMRC to undertake a comprehensive review of the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents in Australia (first published in 2018), and to develop new national guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 in Australia.
- s47E(d)

