



TRANSCEND

**Statement in response to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) advice to the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt on the treatment of trans, gender diverse and non-binary children and adolescents in Australia
6 March 2020**

TRANSCEND AUSTRALIA is pleased to support the RACP advice to the Minister for Health Greg Hunt into the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Transgender and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents and affirming care and treatment for this vulnerable cohort of young Australians. We note the unequivocal nature of the endorsement given by the RACP and welcome the strength and clarity of their statement in support of these important and best practice guidelines. We also note advice from the RACP to extend services and resources around the country, acknowledging the great harm that comes from limited access to supporting resources, as well as negative campaigns against affirming care by some parts of the media.

Transcend Australia also extend our thanks and recognition of the Royal Children's Hospital Gender Service, its Director, Associate Professor Michelle Telfer and the entire gender service team for their steadfast support of the TGDNB children in their care. Your leadership has been important for the medical community as well as the families and young people affected. Parents of TGDNB young people in other locations in Australia welcome the RACP's recommendation for the development of "consistent, high quality, specialist multi-disciplinary health care in every jurisdiction, across a range of settings" to meet the needs of this vulnerable and under-served population.

Transcend Australia recognises the right of all trans, gender diverse and non-binary people to access support, services and, where appropriate, timely treatments, to promote their health and well-being. We unequivocally support the careful, measured, and evidence-based protocols outlined in the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Transgender and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents.

The Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines for Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Adolescents have been peer reviewed and endorsed at the highest levels and by the Australian peak medical body, AusPATH. The guidelines have been adopted across Australia, endorsed by the international medical journal, The Lancet, and are world's best practice. They have been endorsed again by the RACP. They have led to a substantial improvement in the well-being of trans, gender diverse and non-binary (TGDNB) young people and the lives they can lead within their families and the wider community in Australia today.

The current endorsed guidelines and protocols are an evidenced-based response by highly experienced professional practitioners working over many years with this small but high need client group. The families Transcend Australia support would be very concerned if there were any reduction in the professional responsiveness to, or capacity to support, the

health and well-being of their children. Likewise, Australia's first young adults to have benefited from the application of affirmative care as children and adolescents consider the positive outcomes in their lives as independent adults to be directly attributable to such responsive, timely and needs based care.

"I am proud, confident, and excited for my future, because of the support I've received from the RCH Gender Service and my family. Every child who needs access to affirmative care in Australia should be able to receive it. " Georgie Stone OAM

Transcend Australia looks forward to improved and expanded responsiveness to the needs of TGDNB young people and their families. We welcome further improvements to, and enhancement of, the services available to support trans and gender diverse young people and their families nationwide. Transcend Australia will continue to work with all state and federal governments and other related organisations to ensure the human rights of TGDNB young people are protected which is intrinsic to positive health and well-being throughout their lives.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with Minister Hunt to discuss the needs of TGDNB children and young people into the future and work constructively towards maintaining and extending the highly effective outcomes obtained through the application of highly skilled affirmative care practices.

Transcend Australia will always pursue outcomes for young TGDNB Australians which support their human rights, celebrate their lives and allow them to flourish and thrive.

The Board of Directors

Transcend Australia LTD