

Support for trans young people's access to life saving care in the UK

Transcend Australia stands in solidarity with trans young people, their families, and advocates in the UK following the recent decision to continue criminalising the prescription of puberty blockers for transgender children and young people.

This decision, founded on a study lacking robust evidence and consultation with experts, will have profound and harmful consequences on the lives of young people seeking gender-affirming care.

Access to gender-affirming healthcare, including puberty blockers, is a fundamental right and an essential component of health and wellbeing. Evidence consistently shows that gender-affirming care, when provided by qualified health professionals in collaboration with young people and their families, saves lives. Denying access to this care is discriminatory and poses a serious public health risk, exacerbating mental health challenges and increasing risks of harm for trans young people.

Jeremy Wiggins, CEO Transcend Australia, stated:

“We know that access to gender-affirming healthcare saves lives for those who need it. This decision goes against evidence-based recommendations and jeopardises the safety and wellbeing of transgender young people in the UK. Families will now go without life-saving care, and that is both unethical and unjust.

Puberty blockers have been successfully used for decades to support young people during a critical stage of their development, allowing them time to explore their identity while preventing the distress of undergoing a puberty that may not align with who they are. This decision not only disregards expert recommendations but also perpetuates stigma and discrimination against trans young people.”

Transcend Australia urges decision-makers to prioritise the voices and needs of trans young people, their families, and the medical professionals who support them. We call for policies informed by evidence, not fear or prejudice, and advocate for puberty blockers to be made accessible for those who need them.

We extend our support to organisations like Mermaids who support trans children and young people and their families in the UK, and the countless families and young people in the UK affected by this harmful decision.

For those in the UK seeking legal access to puberty blockers, we encourage you to reach out to Anne Health <https://www.anne.health/contact>.

Together, we can ensure a future where all young people can thrive, supported by care that respects their identities and their rights.

Learn more:

Explore our evidence-based 'Living True, Living Better' resources to better understand the importance of gender-affirming care and an analysis of the UK Cass Review: www.transcend.org.au/resources/evidence