



QUEENSLAND GENDER AFFIRMING CARE UPDATE

All young people, including trans kids, deserve access to the health care they need without interference from politicians.

WHO ARE WE

We are a group of LGBTIQ+ organisations working nationally and in Queensland to support trans young people.

SUPREME COURT CASE

A ban on puberty blockers and hormone therapies was challenged by the mother of a trans teenager removed from the waiting list of Queensland's gender service. See more on this ban in Vine Review below.

On 22 October 2025, a judicial review hearing in relation to the ban took place before the Queensland Supreme Court (**Court**). There were three grounds on which the Directive was challenged by the Applicant, that:

1. The Director General was acting at the behest of Health Minister, Tim Nicholls (**Minister**) rather than exercising his personal discretionary power independently, impartially and fairly, and not being subject to the Minister's direction as required under the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (Qld) (HHBA),¹
2. the Minister's opinion was an irrelevant consideration to which the Director-General had regard when making the decision to issue to Directive,² and
3. consultation was not undertaken with relevant Services to which the Directive applied, as required under the HHBA s 48.³

RESULT OF THE CASE

JUDGEMENT

The [judgement](#) was delivered on 28 October 2025 with Justice Peter Callaghan finding the Applicant successful on ground 3 (consultation). He only needed to decide on one ground but commented that the case 'would have also succeeded' on grounds 1 and 2.

Orders from the Judge were:

- The application is allowed; and
- That QLD Health's decision to issue Health Services Directive QH-HSD-058 be set aside.

This meant:

- The application was allowed to be made to the Supreme Court because the Applicant was directly impacted by the denial of clinically indicated medical treatment because of the Directive.
- The decision to ban public gender affirming healthcare for young people in QLD was made unlawfully.

NEW MINISTERIAL DIRECTION

However, on 29 October 2025, in response to this judgement, the Queensland Government issued Ministerial Direction [QH-MD-002](#) to all Hospital and Health Services. This Direction continues to ban the provision of puberty blockers and hormone therapies for trans young people (cis young people maintain access).

IMPLICATIONS

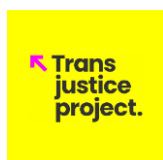
This Supreme Court judgement makes clear that the government and health bureaucrats acted unlawfully when deciding on the ban and failed trans young people and their families across QLD.

The process behind that Health Service Directive has been determined to be unlawful. Existing legal actions under discrimination and human rights law against this directive are still continuing.

¹ *Judicial Review Act 1991* (Qld) ss 20(2)(e), 23(e); *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (Qld) s 44F.

² *Judicial Review Act 1991* (Qld) ss 20(2)(e), 23(a).

³ *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (Qld) s 48.



This new Ministerial Direction has shocked and devastated us all, especially those affected by the ongoing ban. This new Direction may face further legal challenges.

The ban is in place until the government considers and acts on the advice of the Vine Review. The final report from the Vine review is due to be submitted to the Director General on 30 November 2025.

For now, all public gender services for trans young people and their families in QLD remain closed.

BACKGROUND

HEALTH SERVICE DIRECTIVE

On 28 January 2025, Queensland Health's Director-General, Dr David Rosengren (**Director-General**), issued a Health Service Directive banning prescribing puberty blockers and hormone therapies in Queensland Health services for all new patients under 18.

VINE REVIEW

On the same day, the Queensland Government announced an independent review, led by Professor Ruth Vine, into the use of these treatments for young people.

These actions were prompted by supposed concerns about the benefits and safety of gender affirming healthcare, as well as issues raised about paediatric gender care provided by the Cairns Sexual Health Service.

This Review is supposed to be evaluating the quality and outcomes of available evidence, as well as ethical considerations. But the questions asked by the Review may miss what it means to be trans, why gender affirmation impacts trans lives and how Australia is leading the way in providing patient-centred medical care to trans young people.

While the ban did not apply to patients who had already commenced treatment, 491 young people on the waitlist were removed with no options for support.

This decision was made contrary to clearly established evidence for the benefits of timely access to gender services, without any input from trans health experts or those with lived experience, and without consideration for the number of young people affected or the potentially devastating psychological harms it could have on them.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

A working group of [QTrans](#), [Open Doors Youth Service](#), [LGBTI Legal Service](#), [Queensland Council for LGBTI Health](#), [Gimny Queer Collective](#), [Transcend Australia](#), [Trans Justice Project](#), [AusPATH](#), [LGBTIQ+ Health Australia](#), [Gender Health Australia](#), [Equality Australia](#) and others formed early and have been meeting regularly, organising and continuing to advocate.

In February 2025, more than 100 individuals and organisations signed [a joint letter](#) calling on the Queensland Government to reverse the ban and recommence these essential services. The Australian Government also announced in February that it had requested the National Health and Medical Research Council to undertake its own review and develop new national guidelines for the health of trans young people⁴.

In March 2025, the Australian Professional Association for Trans Health (AusPATH) launched [Project 491](#), to support families rejected from care.

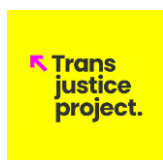
Written submissions to the review were due on 29 July 2025. In the months leading up to this deadline, our working group produced a number of resources, held consultations and hosted events to support the community to make a submission, protest and take action, engage in media and contribute to the gathering of stories. A truly collaborative effort.

NEXT STEPS

The Vine Review will not produce any recommendations but, according to the Terms of Reference (**ToR**), it will produce advice that *may inform policy and implementation decisions by the Queensland Government*.⁵ The ToR also required

⁴ See further, 'National clinical practice guidelines for the care of trans and gender diverse people under 18 with gender dysphoria, NHMRC (web page) [National clinical practice guidelines for the care of trans people under 18](#).

⁵ QLD Health (2025) [Terms of Reference: Independent review of the evidence base and advice regarding policy options for the use of puberty suppression \(Stage 1\) and gender affirming \(Stage 2\) hormones for children and adolescents with gender dysphoria in Queensland's public hospital system](#), pp. 3; Scope of Review.



the Vine Review to consider recommendations from the UK's Cass Review, a review that Australian clinicians and researchers have called *incompatible with person-centred care and unsubstantiated by evidence*⁶.

The Vine Review is due to deliver its final written report and advice to the Director General of Queensland Health by 30 November 2025.

We are working together for any outcome, exploring support options and referral pathways, including community-led solutions, and we remain committed to all trans people having access to timely and accessible healthcare that helps them live their best life.

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

Trans communities are incredibly resilient; we stand together and stick up for ourselves. We're always stronger when we're united. Government decisions and legal judgements will never erase trans communities, could never diminish our lived experience and who we know ourselves to be.

- Connect with [QTrans](#), [Open Doors Youth Service](#), [QLD Council for LGBTI Health](#), [Gimuy Queer Collective](#) and [Magandjin People's Pride](#) to find community and access support.
- [Gender Health Australia](#) is a multi-disciplinary team providing gender affirming care nationally via telehealth and its Brisbane clinic.
- [TransHub](#) has a growing national directory of gender affirming doctors, and the [AusPATH](#) providers directory includes all clinician members.
- [Suicide Callback Service](#) - Free phone and online counselling for people living across Australia. Available 24 hours/7 days a week on 1300 659 467 and [online](#).
- [QLife](#) - Free phone and online LGBTIQ+ peer counselling for LGBTIQ+ people across Australia. Available 3pm to Midnight, 7 days a week. 1800 184 527 and [webchat](#).

- [13 YARN](#) - National crisis support line for mob. Available 24 hours, 7 days a week. 13 92 76 (13 YARN).
- [TransHub crisis support](#) - National resource hub for trans people, our loved ones, allies and clinicians.
- For those in Gimuy Cairns, there is a [fact sheet](#) with helpful information about seeking affirming care in your area.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Follow the community organisations and groups working together for the trans young people and their families of QLD.

- [Sign and share the petition](#) against the new Ministerial Direction.
- [Sign and share the petition](#) from Trans Justice Project to reinstate healthcare.
- Your organisation can [be part of our open letter](#), or you can sign on as an individual health or medical provider, or academic.
- [Share](#) this handy summary from our friends at the LGBTI Legal Service
- Write to and call your state and federal MPs, and encourage your friends, family, workmates and neighbours too.
- If you are able, please donate to [Project 491](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We will continue to keep our communities informed as information comes to hand.

For more information contact Teddy Cook at info@equalityaustralia.org.au.

VERSION

This document was first published on 30 October 2025. To ensure you have the latest version, visit our website [here](#).

⁶ Moore, J.K., Rayner, C., Skinner, S.R., Wynne, K., Cavve, B.S., Fraser, B., Ganti, U., McAllister, C., Meyerowitz-Katz, G., Nguyen, T., Ravine, A., Ross, B., Russell, D.B., Saunders, L.A., Siafarikas, A.

and Pang, K.C. (2025), Cass Review does not guide care for trans young people. *Med J Aust*, 223: 331-337. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.70035>