

## Response to recommendations from the investigation into paediatric gender services, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service

12 February 2026

In response to concerns relating to clinical governance and adherence with clinical standards at the Cairns Sexual Health Service (CSHS), Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, a Health Service Investigation was commissioned on 28 January 2025 to investigate and report on matters relating to the administration, management and delivery of paediatric gender health services.

The investigation focused on the establishment, governance (operational, professional and clinical), service delivery, and complaints management and was informed by a clinical review.

The investigation is now complete. I acknowledge the contribution from consumers and staff during the clinical review and investigation and thank the investigators and clinical reviewers for their work on this matter.

The investigators have made 21 recommendations which Queensland Health accepts 'in principle' noting that many of the recommendations refer to the delivery of gender hormone therapy which has been paused under [Ministerial Direction](#) effective from 28 October 2025 and pending review by 2032.

Consistent with advice in the recently published [Independent review of Stage 1 and Stage 2 hormone therapies in Queensland's public paediatric gender services](#), referral pathways for patients will be clarified in the context of available services and all clinical care pathways will be incorporated into mainstream public hospital paediatric and mental health services.

Children's Health Queensland will continue to provide statewide leadership for clinical policy, governance and specialist advice, however general paediatric and mental health supports should be provided locally where available.

Recommendations (or parts of these) that are relevant to paediatric gender health services currently available for delivery across Queensland Health will be progressed to the extent possible.

Gillick competency refers to the assessment of capacity for a child or young adult under 18 years to consent for medical treatment or procedures. Recommendations relevant to the assessment of Gillick competency have broad implications and, as such, Queensland Health will seek to uplift guidance in this area across the public health system.

Specific concerns around individual clinician practice that have been identified during the clinical review have been referred to the Office of the Health Ombudsman.

Dr David Rosengren

Director-General  
Queensland Health